

Statement

The Hon Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery
Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 20 January 2026

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

I thank the thousands of CFA members who have prepared their communities, been fighting fires and supporting flood-affected communities along Great Ocean Road.

The CFA is stronger, better funded and better resourced under a Labor Government.

The CFA's 2024–25 Annual Report makes it clear: in 2024-25 CFA funding reached its highest level in five years.

Grant funding to the CFA has increased by nearly \$22 million and total income is up by more than \$26 million.

The CFA's asset base also grew by about \$106 million.

That means more funding for volunteers, more equipment on the ground and more investment in the stations, trucks and tools Victorians rely on during emergencies.

At a time when fire-affected communities are looking for clear information and support, the Liberals are spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories.

Victorians deserve better – not fear-mongering that undermines confidence in the very people protecting our communities.

Because for the Liberals, this is all about politics, not people.

The leader of the opposition should apologise for her misinformation campaign.

She should also withdraw from the Barnaby Joyce misinformation convention, which will claim climate change has nothing to do with fires and floods that are increasing in frequency and intensity.