LATROBE VALLEY CFA STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING SIDE-BY-SIDE

Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino today praised the firefighters at Morwell and Traralgon fire brigades for their critical work protecting their communities.

Visiting the stations today, Mr Merlino was encouraged to see it was business as usual at the integrated brigades, which have a combined workforce of career and volunteer fire fighters.

He used the visits to discuss plans to establish a new CFA consultative committee that will work to improve performance and culture within the CFA.

This includes recruiting and retaining more women firefighters, improving diversity, recognising and valuing the work of volunteers and career firefighters, and their health and wellbeing.

Mr Merlino is also meeting volunteer brigade captains from around the state to discuss their concerns about the proposed CFA Enterprise Agreement.

Mr Merlino said the most important step in protecting Victorian communities was to end the misinformation, the scare campaigns, and the dispute that has been going on for over 1100 days.

To get the facts on the CFA Enterprise Agreement and the future of the CFA, visit: www.yourcfainfo.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino

“I’ve been travelling around the state meeting career and volunteer firefighters to hear their concerns and to end the misinformation and scare campaigns.”

“Both career and volunteer firefighters are telling me they are tired of being used as political footballs. They want this dispute ended and they want to get on with the job they do best – keeping our community safe.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Region Harriet Shing

“The Morwell and Traralgon Fire Brigades are great examples of how Victoria’s volunteer and career firefighters work together to keep their community safe.”

“Keeping our community and our firefighters safe is the number one priority, which is why this dispute needed to end.”

Media Contact: Kara Douglas 0417 655 803 | kara.douglas@minstaff.vic.gov.au