



REPORTS EXPOSE ONGOING FUNDING GAPS AND POLITICAL SPIN AS FIRE TRUCK CRISIS DEEPENS

Wednesday 21 January 2026 – The failure to table Fire Rescue Victoria’s 2024-25 Annual Report, the tabling of the Country Fire Authority’s 2024–25 Annual Report, and the failure to release the outcome of a KPMG audit into the condition of FRV’s fleet show that the Allan Government is seeking to obfuscate the deepening fire truck crisis.

The FRV annual report has yet to be tabled leaving Parliament and the public in the dark about the true state of the metropolitan fire service during one of the most dangerous fire seasons in recent memory.

The absence of this report denies scrutiny of fleet condition, workforce pressures, financial management and operational readiness at a time when firefighters are reporting daily truck failures and critical capability gaps.

In the wake of significant public pressure, the tabling of the CFA’s 2024–25 Annual Report has confirmed that despite headline funding increases, the CFA recorded a significant operating deficit of approximately \$50.5 million for the 2024–25 financial year.

Analysis of funding trends over time shows that grant income declined in the years leading up to 2024–25, and in real terms adjusted for inflation, funding has fallen since 2020–21.

At the same time, the outcome of a KPMG audit into the condition of FRV’s fleet, commissioned by the Government and commenced in January 2025, remains unpublished more than a year later leaving firefighters concern that critical findings about fleet safety and capability are being withheld from Parliament and the public.

Victoria’s fire services remain under-resourced, with ageing fleets, mounting deficits and serious questions still unanswered by the Allan Government.

This continued lack of transparency only reinforces why career and volunteer firefighters have united to call for an urgent Parliamentary Inquiry into the January 2026 Victorian fire season, rather than a government-managed review.

A week with FRV’s ageing fire truck crisis

Since last Wednesday, at least seven FRV fire trucks have broken down while responding to, or immediately after attending, a fire.

There are currently no spare fire trucks available in the FRV fleet.

65 per cent of Fire Rescue Victoria’s fleet, 138 of approximately 213 trucks, are past their service life, with some vehicles as old as 35 years still in operation in communities across Victoria, from regional centres to the Melbourne CBD.



The CFA fleet faces similar challenges, with 792 CFA tankers now out of date and deemed unsafe, including 230 tankers that are more than 31 years old and should be off the road.

Andrew Weidemann AM from the Across Victoria Alliance said the gap between government rhetoric and frontline reality was growing.

“The continued delays in tabling reports show a government more concerned with managing optics than protecting lives.”

United Firefighters Union Secretary Peter Marshall said the ageing trucks have reached crisis point.

“Seven break downs in seven days means lives were at risk. What’s it going to take for this government to take the issue of ageing trucks seriously?”

“This is a government more concerned with optics than accountability. We’re calling for more transparency and less spin. We’re getting dizzy, Premier.”

John Houston President of CFA Volunteers Group Inc said volunteers were increasingly frustrated.

“The failure to keep up with inflation is sucking the morale out of volunteers.”

“We simply don’t see new tankers on the ground. We feel the government is taking us for a ride.”

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