



VICHANSARD

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Title **Country Fire Authority: maps**
House **ASSEMBLY**
Activity **Adjournment**
Members **SYKES**
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Country Fire Authority: maps

Dr SYKES ([Benalla](#)) -- I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, who, I am disappointed to say, has just left the chamber.

The matter is the Country Fire Authority's intention to roll out new maps for use by firefighters -- maps which unfortunately contain many inaccuracies and are difficult to read. I request that the minister halts the rollout of the new maps and implements the constructive proposals of [CFA](#) volunteers to overcome the inadequacies of the new maps in their current form.

The issue has been drawn to my attention by [CFA](#) volunteers in north-east Victoria who have used their many years experience in active firefighting to assess the proposed Spatial Vision's Vicmap book for north-east Victoria.

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Many inaccuracies have been detected, including: Myrree Primary School being located on both maps 296 and 331; Winton Primary School being mislocated on a non-existent road; and the omission of Molyullah Hall on map 295. All of these structures are correctly located in the 1998 [CFA](#) map book. It is unfortunate that the [CFA](#) did not honour its original commitment to have grassroots volunteers check the draft maps before finalisation.

The maps are also quite difficult to read due to factors such as inclusion of too much information and poor use of colour and style. The principal purpose of the maps is to increase the efficiency of fire brigades and other emergency services when responding to emergency calls. However, the [CFA](#) has attempted to have a map that is useful for tourists and visitors to the area as well. This has led to excessive information on the maps and the omission of property owner names from the maps.

Local [CFA](#) volunteers have offered common-sense solutions, which at this stage appear to have been rejected by the [CFA](#). The volunteers say the [CFA](#) is, and I quote:

more interested in covering its butt rather than making it easier and safer for [CFA](#) volunteers and other emergency services personnel to carry out their vital and much-appreciated work.

One common-sense solution is to have two versions of the map books: one for emergency services use, with property owner names included; the other for general use, without the property owner names. This can be achieved by simply deleting those pages with property name lists from the general-use version.

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I request the minister halts the rollout of the new maps and implements the constructive proposals of the CFA volunteers to overcome the inadequacies of the new maps in their current form and to achieve the principal purpose of the maps, which is to increase the efficiency of fire brigades and other emergency services when responding to emergency calls.

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Responses

Mr CAMERON (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) -- The honourable member for Benalla raised a matter in relation to map books. I am pleased to see that he raised this for Country Fire Authority volunteers, particularly given that he orchestrated the voting down and killing off of the emergency management bill in the Legislative Council's last sitting week, when that would have brought about benefits and protections to the tremendous CFA volunteers we have across our great state. I have been made aware of the accuracy of map books as I have travelled around the state. It has also been raised with me during my regular meetings with the Emergency Services Commissioner. It is also something that I have raised with the CFA.

The spatial information infrastructure branch of the Department of Sustainability and Environment engaged Spatial Vision to develop map books.

***** DAILY HANSARD *** PROOF VERSION ONLY *** DO NOT QUOTE *****

The CFA was a partner in that, and the books were also to be used by the CFA. There are some inaccuracies in a number of areas. As a consequence of that, further information for further editions is sought from users of the map books, including CFA volunteers. The map books themselves have already been published. That has occurred over time. Publishing finished some four months ago. But the honourable member can be assured that this is a matter that I am aware of and the CFA is aware of it and feedback is sought.