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Our patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

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### Mount Gisborne Communications Tower

I can confirm CFA has an ongoing requirement for the Communications Tower at Mount Gisborne. The radio equipment is used as Incident Management Channel (IMC) repeater used for the management emergency incidents within the Mount Macedon Group. The IMC provides critical communications from our Local Commander Facilities and Incident Control Centres to the Fire Ground. To enable CFA to monitor the site remotely for hardware and power failures and to collect GPS information the communications tower is critical to allow for microwave radio link to be installed from the site to Gisborne Fire Station. CFA is in the process of implement a new solution at Incident Controls Centres and District Control Centres which will allow for a Voice over IP extensions of the IMC repeater to be remotely controlled over an IP link back to multiply CFA Incident Control Centres. This allows for redundancy should the Gisborne ICC not be available

CFA was previously located a lower part of the hilltop. CFA choose to relocate to this site as it provided superior coverage into the Mount Macedon Group. Other IMC's in the area such as Mt Blackwood, Mt Macedon and Wildwood does not provide the coverage required.

Without the Communications Tower a microwave radio link cannot be installed, and it limits our ability to monitor the site remotely for hardware and power failures, and to collect GPS information from our appliances. The GPS information allows the Incident Management Team to locate our appliances to ensure they are not located in an unsafe situation.

Yours sincerely,

**Mehmet Yusuf**

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