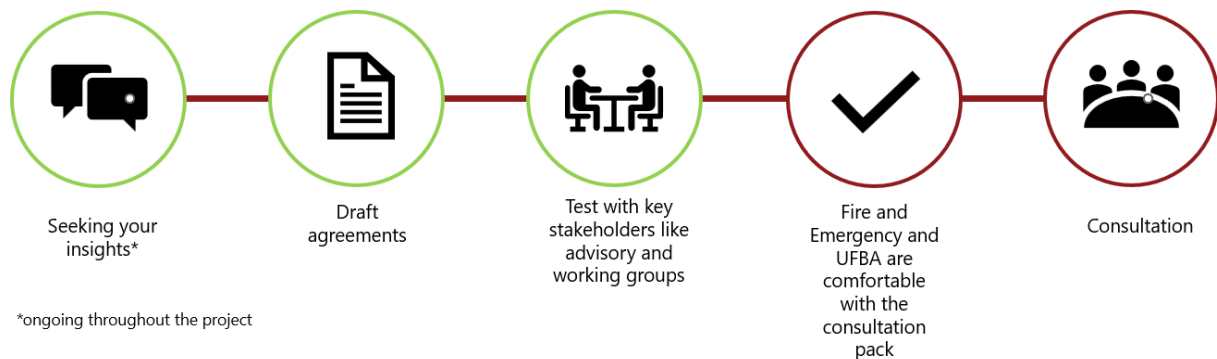


## Project Update - January 2026

The project team can be reached by emailing [volunteerengagementmodel@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:volunteerengagementmodel@fireandemergency.nz)  
Or contact the UFBA team by emailing [connect@ufba.org.nz](mailto:connect@ufba.org.nz)

### Current status

We're making great progress as the project moves through the next stages.



### Seeking your Insights

During the Seeking Your Insights Phase, the VEM team led more than 70 engagements, involving 2500 interactions with personnel (primarily volunteers) across the country, including at Regional Volunteer Brigade Leaders conferences, the UFBA Conference, Volunteer Brigade Leader meetings and District and Regional Leadership meetings. A survey was also sent to all UFBA members that received over 600 responses.

Overall, 2600 pieces of individual feedback were gathered. Each insight has helped shape the next stage of the project, ensuring the future volunteer agreements reflect what matters most to you.

### Draft agreements

The team have now entered the *Drafting agreements phase*. Using your feedback, the team is updating and/or drafting agreements that define the relationships between:

- Brigades and Fire and Emergency
- Volunteers and their brigades
- Volunteers and Fire and Emergency

### Test with key stakeholders

Document drafts are being tested with volunteers and subject matter experts to ensure the agreements will work for everyone.

### UFBA Conference

Thank you to everyone who joined us in the Learning Labs and visited us at the booth. We heard a wide range of perspectives on the topics shaping the new agreement between Brigades and Fire and Emergency. The insights, challenges shared, and conversations were invaluable and have given us a clearer view of what matters most to brigades.

We received 101 surveys back from the Learning Lab, all of which went into the draw to win some spot prizes. Congratulations to our winners, two of which received UFBA Fire Shop vouchers, and the other two a supper shout for their brigade. The winners were: Howick Brigade, Woodville Brigade, National Park Brigade and Tokomaru Bay Brigade.

### **Video updates**

We've created two short videos to help keep you and your brigade informed. You can watch them on the UFBA website and Fire and Emergency Portal or play them at your next training night or brigade meeting.

### **Looking Ahead – January to March 2026**

Work will continue to test the draft agreements and prepare for consultation. A consultation pack will be released in the first half of 2026, giving you the opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Your continued engagement and insights are vital to ensuring the final agreements reflect your needs and voices.