Kirra Vanzetti

From: Glenn

Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 7:46 PM

To: LCSC

Subject: Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation & Fire Services Legislation

Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

For the Attention:

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Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee.



July 5, 2017.

It is my view in regard to the subject that the lack of consultation with both paid and volunteer fire fighters is leaving all parties frustrated and disappointed that their efforts over many years are not seen as being a worthwhile input to a function; they the people actually provide.

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When the views of many thousands of fire fighters are in unison, then surely Government generated policy should follow that view.

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Unpopular decisions often have to be made by a Government, but only when a positive and significant gain can be demonstrated, in this case no overall gain operationally or fiscally has been demonstrated.

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There are two main issues, that out of the many issues should prevent the proposed legislation being passed.

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The first, is an EBA that has been much discussed over the last 18 months, the EBA is a complex document, but buried within it are paragraphs that very likely violate the CFA Act and or its intent and alter or curtail the CFA Chief Officers powers. If as has been promoted the creation of Fire Service Victoria that then splits paid and volunteer fire fighters into separate entities. Raises my first point that I would like you to consider.

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That given the above, why are the mentioned paragraphs still in the EBA, if they are no longer relevant and by virtue of the split never able to be used?

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The second issue is simply, If a paid fire-fighter is standing next to a volunteer fire-fighter in the same column of smoke, then there can be no possible reason to apply a different set of rules for one or the other; when and if their health may be impacted by having stood and breathed the same smoke. One rule for all. Imagine the same two fire-fighters passing through the same speed camera on the same day and time, both exceeding the speed limit by the same amount and receiving different fines, for no other reason than their different pay structures. I think the concept would be hard to sell.

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I thank you for your time taken to read my views

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Glenn McKay

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