

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Murray Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 11:27 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: FIREFIGHTERS PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS

I would like to submit a voice on the CFA volunteers and the Professional Firefighters working relationship. as proposed by the State Government of Victoria.

I live in regional Victoria and understand the responsibility and dedication the volunteer firefighters give our community.

I do not believe the recommended working relationship between the two bodies is either practical or possible in regional Victoria, how it is envisaged that professional firefighters can attend every fire and be in charge of fires that are in regional areas.

For a start the local CFA have much better local knowledge of vegetation, road conditions, area directions and local community knowledge.

I also believe that the location of local CFA stations must be an advantage to Professional Fighters stationed in the larger centers, therefore a quicker response time must be an advantage.

In a serious code red situation I believe that the training the CFA volunteers have obtained is adequate to deal with a first response action, not have to wait for a team of professionals who just maybe on another fire action in a time of extreme fire activity.

Volunteer is a volunteer who give freely of their time, effort and personal risk to attend the needs of our community and as a volunteer one must have a little, even a big resentment when, a. having to wait for a professional to come before he or she can react to an emergency situation, that could be a quicker result with immediate action by a volunteer, let alone the anguish the victim of a fire situation must feel standing waiting.

I do not condemn Professional Firefighters being responsible fire fire control in regional centers and metropolitan cities, they have the expertise in built up areas and are on 24 hour notice let the unions control them. But to give control over the whole state is not the answer.

Regional Victoria is made up of community based people and surely Government understand how important community based volunteers are to each little, and larger community, the CFA Community is not just about fighting fires its about how over the years families have for generations been involved in social activities that hold the community together interacting in many ways for a sustainable future of their town. Not just fire fighting education and fire fighting activities but exchanging ideas, agricultural information, in fact it is a focal point of social interaction that is vital for small town survival.

I wonder how many professional fire fighters attend local CFA brigade social events, events that foster this community spirit that makes the local brigade so dynamic.

What worries me and many others in our community is the ill feeling this rift is causing in the CFA volunteers, we need them in our community, ultimately the Government does too.

So give the CFA volunteer the respect, that they will to want to keep doing such a great job, providing their services and commitment to regional Victoria, do not make a big division in fire fighting in Victoria that is proposed, ask the CFA how they would like to see a better working relationship be resolved so that Regional Victoria is both better protected in the event of fire and retains a sustainable future.

Signed

Murray Ross

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]