



Kalorama Mt.Dandenong
Volunteer Fire Brigade
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[REDACTED]

To: Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002.

From: Kalorama Mount Dandenong Rural Fire Brigade
Contact: Merylyn Brend Robinson

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July 6th 2017

The Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 was brought up at the recent July meeting of Kalorama Mount Dandenong rural fire brigade.

Members felt they were uninformed about the information on the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill despite CFA newsletters, media releases, emails from political parties and Labour Party advertisements that denigrate the service delivery of the CFA volunteers.

The main point that came out of our meeting was that we were not at all consulted. Not one CFA volunteer at our brigade has been consulted. This is not right, just, fair or equitable.

It was also commented on that the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation should be separate to the Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill as volunteers have to prove how they get the cancer by submitting to a committee but paid fire fighters do not. Certain cancers are also not mentioned, for example: asbestosis.

Members further stated that paid administrative career firefighters seconded back to the CFA administration will be union members. At a local meeting in Monbulk with Steve Warrington, Craig Lapsley and James Merlino it was stated that if paid firefighters wore CFA uniforms then they would be answerable to the CFA hierarchy but the members at our meeting asked how can they be true to the volunteer charter if they are union members? Union members must adhere to union rules especially on decision-making. Paid firefighters seconded to work within the CFA administration might feel compromised personally but realistically they would be union first.

The Monbulk meeting was not at all consultative but rather we were being told that this is what will happen and that we should accept it by jumping on board.

Written on behalf of the members by Merylyn Brend Robinson at the CFA meeting July 5th 2017 and authorised by the Captain, Michael Motteram.



Merylyn Brend Robinson
Kalorama Mount Dandenong CFA me