

From: peter walker
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: Fwd: CFA. TYNONG Local Proud and Matters
Date: Friday, 7 July 2017 2:42:10 PM

Attention the Fire Services Bill Select Committee.

Dear Committee Members,

I take this opportunity to raise some of my concerns about the Fire Services Legislation which the Andrews Government has rushed through the Lower House and attempted to push through the Legislative Council.

I am a proud CFA volunteer firefighter with Tynong Fire Brigade and a proud local community citizen.

I have been a member for 8 Months and have serving as a Basic Fire Fighter.

I raise my concern as an experienced fire fighter with some understanding of CFA and its relationship with Victorian communities.

One of my concerns is that the Presumptive Rights (Cancer) legislation does not treat paid and volunteer firefighters equally. Under this new legislation a paid firefighter with one of the 12 nominated cancers will automatically get access to treatment and compensation. A volunteer firefighter will have to be "considered" by an unspecified panel and then may be granted coverage, treatment or even compensation.

Having watched the Fiskville process where members had to fight for their rights, I would hate for my **family** to have to go through the process through sickness or worse even Death.

This legislation treats me like a second class citizen and is unfair, unreasonable and totally unjust.

Victoria is recognised as one of the most at risk bushfire regions in the world and as such needs the best fire fighting capability in the world. This legislation splits up Victoria's fire fighting capacity and potentially puts us all at risk when the next Ash Wednesday or Black Saturday occurs.

When (*not if*) another major fire event occurs, will we have the surge capacity to meet the challenge? Or will it have been eroded because those brigades we depend on have been deskilled or sidelined because they are in FRV areas?

Another concern my family has is the motive for this new legislation and its potential effects on CFA Volunteers. I don't understand why we need to split CFA up.

None of the inquiries suggested it and the Bushfires Royal Commission actually praised the integrated model of paid and volunteers working together.

How are we supposed to work with FRV, a separate organisation with different priorities?

A simple question is if a CFA volunteer crew and a FRV crew arrive at a fire, who's in charge?

What is the motive for this dramatic change in fire services in Victoria? The Premier spoke about the stream of Inquiries into CFA as a justification yet not one of these inquiries advocated for a restructure of CFA, Indeed where CFA's structure was mentioned it was to

support the integrated model.

Is this exercise nothing more than a very expensive strategy for Premier Andrews to sell fire fighting in Victoria out to the UFU?

Finally, considering Victoria is one of the most at risk fire regions in the world and that this legislation will affect every Victorian, please consider these key questions,

- 1. Do you believe that the Victorian community has been sufficiently consulted and supports this legislation?**
- 2. Are you confident that this legislation will not ham CFS's surge capacity?**
- 3. Do you believe that even with this short Inquiry that you know enough about this legislation to risk Victoria's fire safety?**

Thank you for considering my submission.

I wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Being Local Matters.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Walker,

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