

Attention: Fire Services Bill Upper House Select Committee.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in order to raise some of my concerns about the Fire Services Legislation which the Andrews Government has recently passed through the Lower House and is attempting to rush through the Legislative Council.

I am a proud CFA volunteer firefighter with Sarsfield Fire Brigade and have been associated with this brigade for 4 years.

I raise my concern as a reasonably experienced fire fighter with some understanding of CFA and its relationship with Victorian communities. In addition, during the 3 week long Black Saturday fires, I was living in Ringwood and, at the time, was attending Ringwood Salvation Army Church. I will obviously never forget the fires, but during those weeks, was witness first hand to how 'The Army' smoothly and very efficiently met the needs of hundreds and hundreds of people. Also, one couldn't help but have great pride in the huge generosity of the Australian 'community'. However, in stark contrast, Australians were witness to how the Victroian Fire Service struggled to cope with the large number of fires and how, among other things, communication, especially on each fire ground, was so inadequate, from the 'top' down.

I believe everyone recognises Victoria as being one of the most at risk bushfire regions in the world and therefore must have the best fire fighting capability. From what I have read and heard, this legislation seems to split up Victoria's fire fighting capability and as such must potentially put us all at risk when the next Black Saturday occurs.

In conclusion, as Victoria is one of the most at risk fire regions in the world and this legislation will affect every Victorian household, please consider these key questions,

- **Can you guarantee that this legislation will not significantly change CFA's surge capacity?**
- **Has the Victorian community been sufficiently consulted? and**
- **Do you believe, with this short Inquiry period, that you know enough about this legislation not to risk Victoria's fire safety?**

Thank you for considering my susbmission

I do not wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Yours faithfully,

Name: Douglas John Hubbard

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