

As a proud volunteer with the CFA for the last 15 years, I am saddened to see the direction the Government is taking with this great organisation and write to voice my disappointment and concerns regarding the upcoming changes flagged for the CFA.

The lack of consultation and the speed in which the proposed Bill has been rushed through has demonstrated the lack of planning and decisiveness required to steer the Fire Services going forward.

Whilst we can fairly see the need for operational change; border realignments in conjunction with community expansion, I feel that the experience of volunteers in this arena is being ignored. There is much we can contribute.

The Bill pursued by the Daniel Andrews Government to push for the acceptance of the EBA/UFU endorsement affecting the 1,000 plus operational staff does not equally reflect the effect on volunteers within the 35 plus integrated stations around the state of Victoria, and needs closer investigation.

Both Volunteers and operational staff are affected by this proposal; causing tension and unjustifiable stress.

I ask that the cost to the community with regard to the Fire Services Levy be examined before passing this Bill, and consideration be given to the ongoing claims the UFU will pursue once settled. Where will this stop?

I ask the members of this committee to consider the ramifications with regard to not only the merge of fire fighting organisations into one Fire Rescue Victoria, but the effects it will have on the members of integrated brigades throughout Victoria (both volunteer and career staff).

I would like to expand on the above points, and would appreciate an interview to discuss my views.

Regards,
Terry Becker
2nd Lieutenant,
Patterson River Fire Brigade

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