

Maurice Dumesny
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05/07/2017

To the Members of the Fire Services Select Committee

I am a current CFA Volunteer with 45 years experience in various positions and leadership roles in the Laharum Rural Fire Brigade and also at state level representing District 17. There are a lot of complex issues with the proposed Fire Services Reforms that are of concern to me and other volunteers in District 17.

The lack of **meaningful consultation** with the VFBU and volunteers across the state as a whole prior to these announcements by the Government has been appalling, with only the 35 integrated stations initially having had dialogue with CFA and Government on the proposed restructures. It was only after a request from other Volunteers across other Districts that CFA and Government officials have visited to inform and discuss these changes. In my own District at this stage we have not had any direct conversation with either CFA or Government officials on the Fire Service reforms other than our Operations Manager giving our Group Officers a 1 hour briefing via telephone conference following his meeting with the Minister, CFA CEO and CFA Chief Officer in Melbourne shortly after the announcement.

The **costs** of the Fire Services Restructure now and in the future are unknown. CFA budgets will greatly diminish with any realignment of its present boundaries in and around Melbourne with integrated stations service delivery areas coming under the direction of FRV. There have been reports of \$200million shortfall in revenue for the CFA following these boundary realignments. My concern is most of the Governments promised new funding arrangements will be spent in and around the former integrated brigade areas the please the co located brigade volunteers, with the smaller rural brigades like my own continuing to use a **28 year old** fire truck.

Yours sincerely
Maurice Dumesny