

DONALD UNITING CHURCH



6 Blair St.,
Donald Vic 3480

Assistant Clerk Committees
Dept of Legislative Council,
Fire Services Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring St.,
East Melbourne. Vic 3002

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

I write on behalf of the Donald Uniting Church Council , concerning the current push by the Andrews Labour Government to completely change the relationship between the CFA volunteers, [of which I have been one for over fifty years], and the paid staff of the current CFA.

We are concerned at the lack of consultation, and the attempt to ram legislation through despite the vociferous concerns of the huge number of CFA volunteers. These men and women drop everything at a moments notice to attend fires, often at personal risk, and currently have an excellent working relationship with the Regional Officers that oversee their operations.

We are concerned that the welfare of the volunteers will suffer, and these are the backbone of our rural communities.

We are also concerned at the perceived power the Unions appear to have over the Government in this situation. The wishes of the vast number of CFA volunteers must be considered if the Andrew's Govt. is to retain any credibility in rural Victoria.

This letter has been sent to Premier Andrews, and Minister James Merlino, as the strongest protest against their current position, and the complete disregard for the fact that there is no need for Union intervention or domination of the current volunteer and paid CFA staff situation, which has worked exceedingly well for a great number of years.

Yours sincerely,

Harold H. Flett
[on behalf of the Donald Uniting Church Council
6 Blair St., Donald Vic 3480]

Personal address,
[REDACTED]

Please note – we have no desire for confidentiality, these views may be used in any way seen fit.