

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Keith Clough [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 3:01 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission re proposal to restructure the Country Fire Authority

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

As a long serving volunteer fire fighter with the CFA I am extremely disappointed with the decision to restructure the fire services as proposed by the current Andrews government.

1. This decision to reform has been undertaken without consultation with volunteers as required by the volunteer charter.
 2. There has not been a review that recommends splitting the CFA or the need to change the integrated model across 35 CFA stations: further more the proposal intends to implement FRV brigades at a number of Rural cities & towns across the state further fragmenting the CFA.
 3. the impact on the CFA where they do not have control of there staff employment EBA further restricts the ability of the Chief Officer to fulfill his duties under the CFA act.
 4. The proposal will see a lot of volunteers disenfranchised by the proposal to have CFA brigades co locate at FRV stations, which will see a lot leave the volunteer ranks impacting on Victoria's surge capacity particularly during campaign fires.
 5. There has been no costing on the proposal which can only lead to an increase of the fire services levy, again an impact on communities that will increase hardship.
 6. The only information being provided by the Government Ministers is spin, which is being presented to volunteers by the CFA board members and the Chief Officer.
- Members of the select committee I ask you to consider carefully the decisions driving this need for change to appease a minority of the service and to force the change the government has tried to force the bill through parliament by including the presumptive rights legalisation for fire fighters. Even this is creating a double standard with differing rights for paid staff to that proposed for volunteers.

I sincerely hope the committee can recommend a satisfactory solution with minimal impact to the CFA or the Victorian public including separating the fire service reform from the presumptive legalisation.

Kind Regards

Keith Clough. (CFA Volunteer 1500163)
[REDACTED]