

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Lyn Board [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 3:27 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to Fire Services Reform Select Committee 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a member of CFA since 1983. I am currently Communications Officer at Red Hill Rural Fire Brigade. I am appalled at the changes which the government, along with the United Firefighters Union, are trying to push through.

Regardless of denials by these parties, there has been NO CONSULTATION with volunteers about these changes.

The CFA is primarily a volunteer organisation and is ably supported by career administration staff and, to a lesser degree, career firefighters. Volunteers become involved in their local communities through organisations like CFA, local charities and service clubs and I believe that the proposed changes will cause a lot of volunteer firefighters to lose heart due to the lack of support from the government and resign from their local brigades and this will compromise the ability of brigades to protect their local area.

Recent events have resulted in the sacking or resignation of several loyal and able people who refused to "toe the party line". This included the Minister for Emergency Services, the CEO of CFA and the Board. Does anyone really expect volunteers to have any faith in replacements appointed on the understanding that they will go along with suggested changes.

Cost of changes have not been mentioned but I imagine they will be horrific. Stationery, signage, letterheads, uniforms and equipment will all have to be rebranded and this does not come cheap. It is all very well to say that extra funding has been allocated to CFA but how much will be left when the aforementioned expenses are taken into account.

How much will the fire levy increase?

Then of course we are told that staff from the new organisation will be contracted back to CFA. Where are their loyalties expected to lie? Why should volunteers have to take orders from someone who belongs to a different organisation?

Furthermore, to include the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation legislation in the bill is little less than criminal blackmail. This should be considered as a totally separate issue.

Mrs Lynette Board
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