

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Bill Rodda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 5:42 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Inquiry Into The Fire Services Bill

Members of LSCS
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002

3rd July 2017

I have been a Volunteer Member of the Korumburra Fire Brigade for 43 years. In that time I have been Foreman for 5 years, Secretary for 5 years and Captain for 26 years. I am a Life Member of the C.F.A. , Korumburra Fire Brigade and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria. During this career I have been awarded the Australian Fire Services Medal and the National Medal with two bars. I am writing this submission to your inquiry to express my concerns with some of the aspects of this proposed Fire Services Restructure Bill.

1. Throughout out the whole planning for this Bill there has been no consultation with the Volunteers. Not only is this a concern because this has potential to greatly affect Volunteers but it is a clear breach of the Governments responsibilities in that they are signatories to the Volunteer Charter and this combined with the C.F.A. Act clearly indicates that consultation should have taken place. Hopefully when discussions resume on the future of this restructure the Government will ensure they comply with their obligations.
2. The financial implications of many aspects of this Bill are very vague. To read that the Minister stated that after the bill has been passed financial aspects such as the impacts of the Fire Services Levy will then be sorted out is very concerning and to me does not seem to be an appropriate way to approach such a major project. Surely the implications for this far reaching bill and its many changes would need more planning and a more detailed financial assessment.
3. The surge capacity of Volunteers to respond to large campaign fires is of vital importance to the safety of our State. In my experience of strike teams in recent years many of these volunteers have come from the outer Metropolitan areas and if many of these volunteers find themselves without meaningful tasks to perform throughout the rest of the year I feel that there will be many who will leave the service and find some other voluntary work to perform. If this necessary surge capacity is diminished from the volunteer ranks and taken over by paid staff then the financial aspects of that would be quite extensive.
4. Including the Presumptive Cancer Legislation in this Bill is quite inappropriate and does give this very important aspect its rightful importance. This legislation is most important for all firefighters whether they be paid or volunteers. I am not talking about the specifics proposed in this Bill but are saying that such an important aspect should have a Bill of its own and be properly discussed by all whom it may affect.

Yours sincerely
Bill Rodda AFSM

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