

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Ray Krumins [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 3:03 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am a volunteer at Sassafras / Ferny Creek CFA.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to present my views on the Fire Services Bill you are considering. Firstly, I would like to state that the combining of both the restructure and the presumptive rights together is nothing short of blackmail. It was combined to make you feel that you should pass this bill so as to seen doing the right thing by paid and volunteers alike. I have spoken to a few people who are affected by the presumptive right bill directly and they are of the opinion that they would be more than happy to wait longer rather than have this bill included in the splitting up of CFA. (in my opinion a very strong sentiment from people who are in the middle of battling a life threatening disease)

Secondly, I don't believe for one moment that there is a CFA volunteer who would say that the organisation could not use a little tweaking. But to dismantle it entirely is like demolishing a perfectly good house because the front door lock is not working and the door sticks a little. (fix the door not the whole house)

Thirdly, in my role within CFA as a volunteer, I have the opportunity to speak to many volunteers and also paid personnel, there is not one that I can recall who has any objection to increased pay and working conditions. I also cannot recall anyone mentioning that they would agree with the current proposed legislation. In fact every single one including a few paid people feel as if their worth is in doubt and their morale is as low as it could possibly be. To the point my own daughter who is currently going through recruits made a comment "*I don't know why I am bothering to do this*"

If I could please ask to take the time to read and consider the following and absorb the consequences.

Should this bill pass in it's current form, then over 90% of the surge capacity is gone from CFA. Not for a few weeks, months or even years but forever. This is not just a throwaway line, this is fact.

Should we have, (and I may hasten to add, I hope not) another Black Saturday of 2009 and the experts tell us, it's not a matter of if, but when, who is going to be there to fight these fires? I urge you to please consult with those who know, not those who say they know and are actually pushing the case for the unions and government. Ask the local captains, the people who have fought campaign fires across this and other states. Ask the local residents in high fire danger areas and most of all ask your inner self, if it's worth demolishing the house because the front door needs adjustment.

I thank you for your time in reading this and if the opportunity is available I would be glad to speak to anyone who will listen.

Regards

Ray Krumins

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