

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Lyn & Bill Pauwels [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 4:13 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Bill

Attention the fire Services Bill Select Committee.

Dear Committee Members,

I take this opportunity to raise some of my concerns about the Fire Services Legislation which the Andrews Government rushed through the Lower House and attempted to push through the Legislative Council.

I am a proud CFA volunteer firefighter with the Goorambat Fire Brigade.

I have been a member for 39 years and have served as Captain / LT / Crewleader / strike team leader.

I raise my concern as an experienced fire fighter with some understanding of CFA and its relationship with Victorian communities.

One of my concerns is that the Presumptive Rights (cancer) legislation does not treat paid and volunteer firefighters equally. Under this new legislation a paid firefighter with one of the 12 nominated cancers

will automatically get access to treatment and compensation. A volunteer firefighter will have to be "considered"

by an unspecified panel and then may be granted compensation.

Having watched the Fiskville horror process where members had to fight for their rights, I would hate for my family

to have to go through the process. This legislation treats me like a second class citizen. It is unjust.

Victoria is recognised as one of the most at risk bushfire regions in the world and as such needs the best fire

fighting capability in the world. this legislation splits up Victoria's fire fighting capacity and potentially puts us all at

risk when the next Ash Wednesday or Black Saturday occurs.

When another major fire event occurs will we have the surge capacity to meet the challenge?

Or will it have been eroded as the moral in volunteer brigades is very low.

Another of my concerns is the motive for this new legislation and its potential effects on CFA volunteers I don't

understand why we need to split CFA up.

None of the inquires suggested it and the Bushfires Royal Commission actually praised the integrated model of

paid and volunteers working together.

Finally considering Victoria is one of the most at risk fire regions in the world and that this legislation will effect

every Victorian please consider these key questions,

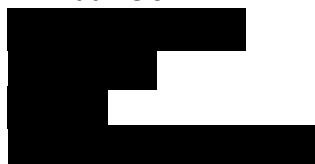
1. Do you believe that the Victorian community has been sufficiently consulted and supports this legislation?
2. Are you confident that this legislation will not harm CFA'S surge capacity?
3. Do you believe that even with this short inquiry that you know enough about this legislation to risk Victoria's fire safety?

Thank you for considering my submission

I wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Yours faithfully

Bill Pauwels

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