

July 5th 2017

Fire Services Select Committee
Parliament House, Melbourne

Mininera Rural Fire Brigade
Mininera, Victoria

Dear members,

I write to you to convey the deep concerns held by members of the Mininera Rural Fire Brigade in relation to the proposed changes contained in the Fire Services Bill.

Whilst we have been assured that we, a small rural brigade, will not see any difference in the way we service our community. We feel the effects of the proposed changes in the medium to long term will certainly impact on us and our district.


The fact that the costing details of a restructure have not, to date, been made public is of concern to us, as is the long term effect on the much mentioned Surge Capacity of the CFA. Given our proximity to the Grampians National Park, we rely heavily on having access to up to date equipment and the timely support of Strike Teams from across the state to suppress the inevitable fires that come from the Park onto farmland, and our communities.

We are unanimous in our condemnation of what seems to be an attempt to give the Reform a free ride through the Houses by being bundled with the Presumptive Rights Bill. The latter, if it were to not discriminate between Volunteer and Career Firefighters, is surely worthy of a separate Bill.

We resent the inference that our communities are not being kept safe under the current structure, which to date has proven to be most effective, in our situation at least.

As a Brigade, we are disappointed that these changes are being forced upon us without the courtesy of consultation, even with our representative body, VFBV. It does, after all, appear to us to be simply an attempt to circumvent the National Fair Work Act and implement the Union's EBA.

Respectfully yours,


Jonathan Coates, on behalf of Mininera Rural Fire Brigade

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