

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Andy Longmore [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:45 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission on proposed fire services restructure

I wish to make a submission to the Upper House Select Committee Inquiry into the proposed fire services restructure.

I have been a volunteer firefighter for 28 years, including 11 as Captain of my local brigade (Mannerim Fire Brigade).

I note the failure of the Government to consult with volunteers, as they are obliged to do under the Volunteer Charter. I think that failure reveals quite clearly the relative importance the Government places on volunteers as compared to the UFU.

I am opposed to several aspects of the proposed restructure, because I fail to see how it will in fact lead to improved service to the public. This should not come as a surprise, since the Minister for Emergency Services has admitted that the whole exercise is aimed at providing a way of avoiding the recent changes to the Commonwealth Fair Work act to ensure that the UFU can achieve its EBA.

Similarly, the proposal to shift operational staff to FRV, then second them back to CFA, is another poorly disguised way of ensuring that the UFU can achieve its aim of meddling with the roles and functions of volunteer firefighters.

But what offends me most is the decision by the Minister that management positions in the new CFA will continue to be retained by seconded career firefighters, and not opened up to volunteers (or other applicants) who have the skills necessary to manage a volunteer fire service. I would expect as a matter of course that during the restructure of the CFA, the CFA Board would create position descriptions for all management roles that reflect the needs of the position, rather than the political need of the Government to keep staff employed in positions similar to the ones they currently occupy.

It should certainly not be something the Minister has a say in.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Longmore
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