

6th July 2017

Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Victorian Proposed Presumptive Legislation for Firefighters

I wish voice my views and concerns regarding the proposed legislation put forward by Daniel Andrews and his government.

My views and concerns include, but are not restricted to the following items:

1. I believe the legislation needs to go through a thorough and considered review with input from CFA volunteers and not just rushed through parliament as is the current case. Ample time needs to be given for all parties to review, digest and respond to this proposal to ensure a fair, comprehensive and positive outcome for all parties involved, including our CFA communities (the people and property we protect).
2. There appears to be no clear and decisive plan as to the administration and ongoing service delivery of CFA if the split of the fire services goes ahead. If there is such a plan, then I refer back to point #1 above, as it has not been disseminated and allowed the appropriate amount of time for review and comment by all parties.
3. The costings / budgets proposed by the government do not stand up to closer scrutiny of the figures. If the split goes ahead as proposed, CFA will be far worse of financially; which in turn will adversely affect CFA's service delivery.
4. With regards to the cancer component, I find the proposed legislation to be discriminatory towards volunteer firefighters as there are a number of differences between the entitlements and requirements for volunteer versus career firefighters. Furthermore the Andrews government has stated that the proposed legislation mirrors the Queensland legislation; yet on closer review there are major differences which prove this not to be the case.

I hope that the committee sees the need to address the above concerns and does so.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Jenkin
1st Lieutenant
Hillcrest Fire Brigade