

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Tony Lander [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 4:00 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: The Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Dear Select Committee,

I am deeply concerned over the Fire Services Bill because it lacks clarity and remains silent on so many critical details.

The fallout from the ALP's decision to establish Fire Rescue Victoria should ring alarm bells as to the motivation behind the bill. Members forced out or sacked include the ALP's former minister Jane Garrett, the CFA and MFB Chief Officers, CEO's and Boards. The bill was drafted following consultation between the ALP and UFU chief Peter Marshall. The key stakeholders the CFA and the communities the CFA protects were not consulted.

The proposed new Fire District Review Panel will provide the government and in turn the UFU with greater powers to change the fire district boundaries without scrutiny. The government failed to attach the fire district maps in legislation to indicate proposals regarding new boundaries.

There is a lack of clarity in relation to the chain of command at fire stations with both FRV and CFA firefighters. The experience of CFA firefighters is crucial when attending bush fires in their districts and clear direction is essential during any emergency.

The bill leaves it open for the government to force through their EBA which will benefit the UFU at great cost to Victorian residents. The legislation has failed to include changes to the funding requirements of the FRV and CFA which means there is the potential for uneven distributions.

In summary, the Fire Services Bill raises far too many questions in relation to the motivation behind the legislation, the potential for future union veto clauses, union interference in the running of the fire services and the cost of running the FRV. The MFB and CFA could no doubt be improved however there is no need for the overkill in the proposed legislation which I believe will have a detrimental impact on Victoria's fire services.

Your sincerely, Anthony Lander

I have resided in the Dandenong Ranges since 1978 and I am a member of the CFA volunteer. I have been non operational following an injury I sustained in 2014.

