

[LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Attention the Fire Services Bill Select Committee.

Dear Committee Members,

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

I am proud CFA volunteer firefighter with Lismore Fire Brigade /

I have been a member for 46 years and have served as Captain / LT / Crew Leader.D.G.O. and Group Chairman

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 prescribed, listed, 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 coverage, treatment, 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 unfair, unreasonable, 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 (not if) another major fire event occurs will we have the surge capacity to meet the challenge? Or will it have been eroded because those brigades we depend on have been deskilled or sidelined because they are in FRV areas?

What is the motive for this dramatic change in fire services in Victoria? The Premier spoke about the stream of inquiries into CFA as a justification yet not one of these inquiries advocated for a restructure of CFA, indeed where CFA's structure was mentioned it was to support the integrated model.

Is this exercise nothing more than a very expensive strategy for Premier Andrews to sell fire fighting in Victoria out to the UFU?

Finally, considering Victoria is one of the most at risk fire regions in the world and that this legislation will affect 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 ham CFS'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 do not wish** for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]