

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Michael Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 6:56 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to The Fire Services Bill Select Committee

5 July 2017

Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am a member of the Mansfield Fire Brigade. I have grave concerns with the proposed Fire-fighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017, the Government. legislation was drawn up in secret with no consultation with CFA, Chief Officer, CEO and Board, VFBV and other stakeholders, this is in contravention of the CFA Act and Volunteer Charter. To have the Presumptive Cancer Legislation in the Bill is disgusting, it is an attempt to get the Bill passed. It should be separate Legislation. The Government is telling us the Presumptive Cancer Legislation is fair to both career and volunteer fire fighters, this is not true as Jack Rush QC has outlined in his report to VFBV. The Government is telling the people of Victoria that the Fire Services are out-dated and this reform is necessary to protect all Victorians. After every major fire there has been a Royal Commission or Review, many changes have been made to the equipment, trucks, protective clothing and training as a result of their findings. The CFA is a modern well recognized integrated fire service. The Government has said this legislation change is needed to pass the UFU EBA. If we are to go back to the dark days of union control the fire services will suffer as a result.

Volunteer fire fighters are a large part of their communities they will protect them at any cost, in the past we have worked well with the career staff and officers, the Government and UFU are driving a wedge between the career and volunteers with clauses in the EBA and legislation, the proof is in the number of well respected CFA, MFB, Government Minister and CFA board members who have resigned or been sacked because parts of the EBA are toxic they would not vote in favour of it.

There is no detail available to make a formed decision on the Reform Bill, it needs a lot of consultation with all the stake holders including the people of Victoria, Shire Councils, EMV, CFA, VFBV, there are too many issues to deal with such as costing, budgets, fire service levy, secondment of Officers, why no consultation, the disrespect shown by the Government to CFA, VFBV and Volunteers.

I am asking you not to pass the Reform Bill in its current form without proper consultation with all stakeholders.

Respectfully yours

Michael Jones
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