



## VIOLET TOWN FIRE BRIGADE

Captain A Anderson  
[REDACTED]

Secretary S Lockwood  
[REDACTED]

4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Attention: Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

I am taking this opportunity to write to you on behalf of the volunteer members of the Violet Town Fire Brigade, to raise our concerns regarding the Fire Services Legislation.

Political and industrial interference is the wrong motivation for changing the service to the Victorian community which has stood the test of time, and there being no evidence for this change. Briefings and political spin after the legislation has been written in not consultation. The legislation is short on the details and it is way too important to leave to a "suck it and see" outcome. This legislation splits up Victoria's firefighting capacity and potentially puts us all at risk when the next major fire event occurs.

We are also concerned that the Presumptive Rights (Cancer) legislation does not treat all firefighters, paid and volunteers, equally. Whereas a paid firefighter who has one of the prescribed cancers will automatically get access to treatment and compensation, a volunteer will be "considered" and "may be" granted treatment and compensation. Not good enough!

Finally, please consider these key questions:

Are you confident that this legislation will not harm CFA's surge capacity in major events?  
Do you believe the community has been sufficiently consulted and supports the legislation?  
Do you believe that even with this short Inquiry period that you know enough about the legislation to risk Victoria's fire safety?

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward our concerns. We wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Anderson  
Captain  
Violet Town Fire Brigade  
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