

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** john [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2017 8:05 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** FW: FIRE SERVICES REVIEW LEGISLATION

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[REDACTED]  
Fire Fighter Drouin Fire Brigade

Members of LCSC  
Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Dear Members

I take this opportunity to raise some concerns about the Fire Services Reform Legislation which the Andrews / Government / Victorian Government has rushed through the Lower House and has attempted to rush through the upper Legislative Council.

I am have been a CFA volunteer with the Drouin Fire Brigade for nearly 45 years and a trained Fire Investigator for 22 years.

There are a number of issues where there are more question than answers!

Senior CFA Officers have been briefing volunteers around the state. Having attended two of these briefings myself the same questions from volunteers are being asked, but no answers.

The funds allotted in the legislation for the restructure are totally inadequate, the figures should be around \$800M to \$1000M which may have to be extended into the future as a permanent cost for many years to come.

Another concern is the Presumptive Cancer part of the Legislation which discriminates between permanent and volunteer fire fighters. Legal opinions that the VFVB obtained from Mr Jack Rush QC, clearly outlines the problem. Victoria is recognised as one of the most bushfire prone risk regions in the world and as such needs the full capacity of the present integrated system to meet that threat. Splitting up the CFA threatens that system.

The way this winter season is going with a lack of rains, serious bush fires could come this summer.

The legislation appears to be poorly worded in parts and has been prepared with little or no consultation with the volunteers which are one party who are effected the most and who need to have full input.

This legislation needs to be fully costed to what it is going to cost the Victorian taxpayer.

The proposed legislation is a political fix for an industrial problem which the Andrews Government has got itself into.

Yours sincerely

John Austin

Volunteer Drouin Fire Brigade