

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Ian Walter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 9:23 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: vfbv@vfbv.con.au; emma.kealy@parliment.vic.gov.au
Subject: Proposed legislation

Dear Sir/Madam

As a still active member of Country Fire Authority of over 60years standing it is with a great sense of frustration that it is necessary for CFA volunteers to comment on the position the present Labour Government has put the majority of CFA volunteers in.

For a Premier to make it so difficult for his Minister, the CFA Board, CFA CEO, AND CFA Chief Officer, to be sacked or resign because of the pressure put on them has to make one believe there is some very underhand action involved.

Some points I believe will be detrimental to the future proposed CFA.

Over the last number of years the EBA's agreed upon has had a large impact on volunteers many of them who believe the UFU has been given to much power over many decisions one of which restricts District Managers & Operation Officers to have to serve 7 years as a permanent fire fighter before eligible for those positions. This has helped lead to a severe shortage of officers in the more remote districts of the state, along with the rejection of lateral entry of locals who could make excellent Officers as in the past. Many believe UFU should not have near as much power as has been given to them through EBA's as in the past.

The CFA was constituted as a volunteer organisation supported by professional staff, this has gradually changed over the years to the detriment of volunteers.

The proposed arrangement of CFA being administered by members of the proposed Fire Ready Victoria is a good example of the power UFU will continue to have to the detriment of volunteers. CFA need there own Officers as a seperate identity so as not to have succumb to the will and power of the UFU.

There needs to be much more consultation and not the dictatorial tactics used by the present government. There has been no consideration for those volunteers who for many years have travelled thousands of kilometres, and there time spent at meetings to help make CFA the great organisation we have come to love, and is considered as one of the best volunteer organisations in the world of which all volunteers can be justly proud. The question that needs to be answered is "Why is there a need for the CFA to be fixed when it serves its communities so very very well ?"

Ian.C.Walter AFSM.
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