

Kirra Vanzetti

From: william Stockdale [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 12:02 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Private Submission Fire Services Reform Bill

**Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

Introduction;

I first joined a CFA rural Brigade in 1964.

I have witnessed the organisation grow to become most respected Fire Service in Australia, & recognised internationally.

The CFA was based on an Integrated Model, combining a large well-trained Volunteers force working side by side with Career Firefighters.

This model is very cost-effective & has worked extremely well, particularly in growth areas where the Volunteer force can be gradually replaced with career staff as development demands.

This model meant that there was always a back-up of Volunteers from Integrated Stations to provide surge capacity in major events such as Ash Wednesday & Black Saturday fires as well as large flood events.

I have always supported change in Victoria's Fire Services to meet the needs of a changing society.

Sadly, we are now presented with a proposed re-structure of the state's Fire Services, motivated solely for short-term Industrial & political ends.

This is no way to plan for the future protection of Victorians in times of Emergency.

Private Submission on the Legislation:

This Bill is not Reform. Reform implies a Strategic approach involving broad investigation analyses of options & consultation with all parties & the community.

This Legislation is merely a re-structure to meet narrow objectives for the benefit of one single group within the Services.

- This Legislation has only one aim & that is to satisfy the need to implement an EBA. The result being one vital section of The Fire Services, the CFA & its volunteers, will be marginalised;
- It is therefore a restructure, having 1 purpose, masquerading as Reform, – 2 completely different things;
- The legislation purposely & by necessity completely sidelines the CFA & significantly reduces its capacity to be in control & plan of its own destiny, with seconded management controlled by Fire Rescue Victoria.
- This Management Model is unprecedented & provides no security, control or certainty for CFA at any level
- The short timeframe for consultation means that the government is merely going through the motions as a perceived consultation process, which it is not a fair outcome

- The Presumptive Cancer provisions discriminate against Volunteers & should be separated from the main Bill

In Summary

(Quoting from a recent VFBV Meeting)

Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world – there is no disputing that! The government is planning on ‘winging it’ – proposing a fundamentally flawed piece of legislation that has very little detail – is vague, and offers more questions than answers, with no consultation with anyone in the emergency management sector and with no transparent research around how the reforms will improve service delivery.

A bad solution won’t fix anything. The Victorian fire service – with our mission of protecting lives and property.... is too important an issue to get it wrong.

I have no objections to this submission being publically available.

William Leonard Stockade

Bill Stockdale

