

Prue Purdey

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 12:35 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: FW: Maintenance of CFA

Please note the change of confidentiality status.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 12:22 PM
To: 'LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au'
Subject: Maintenance of CFA

Dear Select Committee Members

I have been a resident of Clunes Victoria for 4 years, having moved from Blacktown NSW.

- I am very satisfied with the current arrangement where the CFA volunteers protect our community.
- They are community based, well trained and proven successful firefighters who provide a comforting presence in our very proud and volunteer related town.
- They provide an education and information service to the community.
- Through their proactive initiatives of street chats and creating yearly a calendar, they regularly integrate with members of the community, organisations and clubs.
- The CFA and its members are well respected in the community.
- The CFA also add a level of protection in assisting in any emergency which is likely to affect our town, not only fire related emergencies.
- I am aware they get involved in local events (eg. Booktown) which is most appropriate and appreciated.

So, why change that which is working, particularly when there does not appear to be a problem with the status quo.

We all pay our FSPL via our shire rates, and we get a great service.

If we lose the volunteer service in all those areas of Victoria where currently there is a CFA facility, will it be replaced with a service which will provide the same response times to those communities at the same cost? If that can be guaranteed by Mr Andrews and the Labor Government, that may clear up a major concern for members of smaller communities in regional areas. This is hard to visualize if there are no volunteers in the future, or if permanent staff are placed in those facilities to oversee the remaining volunteers.

The parties need to review the sentiments agreed to by those parties in the Volunteer Charter and get on with arriving at a solution which also meets those same sentiments.

In terms of community protection against the ravages of fire away from the Metro area of Melbourne, we don't care about the politics or unionisation, we just want at very least what we have.

I certainly do not pretend to understand the myriad issues surrounding the long drawn out politically supercharged debacle with the many resignations of senior people on both sides, or the intervention of the Prime Minister in a state matter.

However, suffice to say that if a satisfactory (i.e. to smaller regional communities) resolution is not found, I feel that there will be an increased groundswell of resentment towards Mr Andrews, his government and his union friends.

There needs to be further explanation by the Government of what is actually planned and what will the firefighting/emergency response landscape look like, what the benefit to the community will be and what will be the costs...this information is vital in making a decision about who is right.

We do not appreciate spin or politically based nonsense!!

My name is [REDACTED], I am retired and live with my family at [REDACTED], my contacts are email [REDACTED] or mobile [REDACTED]. I do not wish to address the Committee as a witness.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.