

Attention the Fire Services Bill Select Committee.

Dear Committee Members,

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I take this opportunity to raise some of my concerns about the Fire Services legislation which the Victorian Government has rushed through the Lower House and attempted to push through the Legislative Council.

I am a qualified CFA volunteer fire fighter with Cann Valley Fire Brigade.

I have been a member for 58 years and have served as Captain for 24 years..

I raise my concern as an experienced fire fighter with some understanding of CFA and its relationship with local communities which at this stage are largely Uninformed as to what / how this debacle is to potentially leave them without Adequate fire protection.

Another concern is that the Presumptive Right (Cancer) legislation does not treat paid and volunteer firefighters equally. Under this new legislation a

paid firefighter with one of the 12 listed cancers will automatically get access to treatment and compensation. A volunteer firefighter will have to be “considered” by an unspecified panel to be covered for treatment/compensation.

The motive for this legislation and its potential effects on CFA Volunteers is not understood by them as to why this should occur. None of the inquiries suggested it and the Bushfires Royal Commission actually praised the integrated model of paid and volunteers working together.

How are we supposed to work with FRV, a separate organization with different priorities? A simple question: If a CFA volunteer and a FRV crew arrive at a fire, who's in charge?

Finally, consider Victoria is one of the most at risk fire regions in the world. And that this legislation will affect every Victorian, please consider these key questions,

1. Do you believe that the Victorian community has been sufficiently consulted and supports this legislation?
2. Are you confident that this legislation will not harm CFS's surge capacity?
3. Do you believe that even with short inquiry that you know enough about this legislation to risk Victoria's fire safety.?

Thank you for considering my submission.

I wish for this submission to be listed on the Committee's website

Yours faithfully,

Ian Quick

Assistant Secretary Cann Valley CFA.

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