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7 July 2017

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

Proposed Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Service Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

Dear Committee,



inform that the Officers and Members of the Stawell Fire Brigade forward

The Officers and members of the Stawell Fire Brigade within District 16. Unanimously voted at our monthly meeting to make a submission. The Stawell Fire Brigade is currently made up of 100 Firefighters and Brigade Members.

In regards to the Andrews Governments proposal to restructure the CFA we strongly express our dismay and disappointment at another attempt to make significant change to the CFA with a complete disregard and consultation.



inform that the members of the Stawell Fire Brigade, should be subject to blatant discrimination. And that any restructure of the CFA to the current model, could possibly constitute no change to CFA Volunteers.

The Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 is clearly designed to dismantle the CFA under the guise of providing paid and unpaid firefighters financial support during times of cancer related work issues and find offensive.

The Concerns of the Stawell Fire Brigade are;

1. Lack of detail or planning which is a reflection of zero consultation with CFA Management and or CFA Volunteers
2. Impact the CFA capability of its surge capacity it time of major bushfires. In particular major bushfires in the Grampians Region over the last 12 years.

3. Management (up to rank of Operations Manager) being held by Fire Rescue Victoria employees 'seconded' to the CFA. We are concerned that this will detract from unity within the CFA, of which was clear recommendation out of the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission.
4. Grave fears for the longevity of volunteers within integrated brigades
5. Significant control of the CFA being held by the United Firefighters Union via FRV's proposed interoperability with CFA

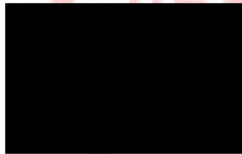
We see the ramification of this legislation being passed without any consultation, such that volunteer leadership and morale will suffer in the short term, and volunteer's numbers and activity will suffer in the long term. As Volunteers are vital to the fire service delivery for the CFA. We cannot afford at this time a decrease in volunteer numbers or volunteer support

We are calling upon the Andrews government to immediately cease the introduction of the Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Service Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 and consult with CFA management and CFA Volunteers.

We too are committed to the introduction of a workable model. But this cannot be achieved without consultation.

Regards

On Behalf of the Stawell Fire Brigade



Chris Le Gassick
2nd Lieutenant
Stawell Fire Brigade

