

From: Tudor Bostock
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: Fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017
Date: Friday, 7 July 2017 5:16:09 PM

Please regard this submission as confidential to the committee.

It is self-evident that this country, Australia, is dependent on volunteers in order to properly function.

The members of the CFA are volunteers. Volunteer firefighters.

Why are they treated with such contempt?

There has been no consultation with the CFA volunteers/members about these bills. No-one has met with them face-to-face. No contact has

been made directly with them. Very little information has been offered to the volunteers or to the general public as to the scope, intention and

content of the bills, and why they are considered necessary. What little information that has been made available is confusing, and it appears

that two quite different intentions have been bundled together.

What is proposed appears almost wholly ideological, and appears to have originated from a trade union official. Is there no-one of sufficient

calibre and life-experience who can deal with this official and the exercise of aggression and rank power?

When fighting wild-fires, in one of the world's most fire-prone areas, CFA volunteers on occasion put their lives on the line.

After 2009 the Bush Fire Royal Commission made recommendations that appear to be over-looked or ignored. This doesn't make sense.

The CFA needs as much help as it can get in fighting these dangerous situations. Why is this not being approached in a cooperative

and respectful way? Why the secrecy and concealment of intention?

When I bought my block of land in 1977, on which I still live, from a farmer, Mr Jack Bassett, who was selling, he said to me, over a handshake,

"Yes, you can buy the block, but you must join the CFA!" Which I did.

The Doreen CFA was then a small bunch of farmers, for whom cooperating with each other, farming, and fighting fires was all part of life.

A setting of mutual obligation, which in instances went back for generations. Such cooperation was essential, and remains so.

Over time much has changed, with changes in the structure, training, qualification and equipment. I have watched it all.

The essence of good management is respect for the individual. What has happened? Where has it gone?

Tudor BOSTOCK,

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