

# LAKE BOLAC FIRE BRIGADE

“COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS serving to SAVE PEOPLE & PROPERTY”

## SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE INTO FIRE SERVICES

The following points reflect the considered views of ours and wider community of the Bill undermining the CFA’s volunteer model particularly,

- (1) The lack of the Legal obligation to genuine consultation with volunteers as comprehended by the Volunteer Charter & the CFA Act.
- (2) The Agreement has the capacity to undermine the ability of volunteers to deliver CFA services and/or diminishes or restricts the role of volunteers, always the first responders to fires and vehicle accidents in rural areas.
- (3) The lack of guaranteed funding or resources for the CFA, the failure to provide financial details or analysis on any of this unnecessary restructure. What costs currently and into the future are contained in the required Government Business plan for the restructure? What is the total yearly saving to Government by the use of volunteers in CFA operational issues at fires or accidents?
- (4) Linking a firefighter health Bill [the Presumptive rights] with the [Reform Bill] appears to be totally immoral in attempting to get the whole Bill through an unsuspecting Parliament.
- (5) The Government appears to be unaware of the stress unnecessarily imposed on Brigade members, community residents and families which may have a flow on impact to the mental health of volunteers, communities and families.

The Governments lack of genuine consultation, with CFA Regions and Brigades to ascertaining any future ramifications affecting volunteers, currently cannot be certified mainly due to lack of discussion with the first responders.

The CFA is a world renowned organisation due its volunteer services and range of fire knowledge; it is extremely difficult to understand that no statement has been made to nullify the reason; on appearance Government is not appreciative of CFA volunteers (first responders) and appear not accorded the required future support.

Lake Bolac Fire Brigade

Per Leo McMaster  
O.H & S OFFICER  
For Captain Lyndon Varney

05/07/ 2017