

Skipton Fire Brigade
 Montgomery St
 Skipton.



CAPTAIN: Christopher Heywood.

SECRETARY: Gavin Corbett

5th. July 2017

To: The Consultative Committee
 Melbourne.

Dear Members,

Proposed Firefighter Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendments (Reform) Bill 2017

It is with much concern that I forward this letter to you.

We are members of a Rural Brigade within District 16 (South West) with a significant ability to offer support (surge capacity) to all parts of the state.

In regards to the Andrews Government's proposal to the restructure of the CFA we would like to express our strong disappointment at another attempt to make major changes to the CFA with a clear lack of consultations with VFBV (our peak representative body) and our volunteer members. This is against the Charter Agreement signed some years ago.

- The implementation of presumptive cancer provisions within the proposal should be seen for what it is, a cynical attempt to encourage the passage of a contentious and divisive change by embedding a popular and well supported measure within it on a “take it or leave it” basis.
- No evidence of data or inquiries has been made publicly available that support the claim that splitting the CFA is about public safety. There have been a number of major inquiries into the fire services following large fire events with no recommendations to alter the CFA.
- CFA management positions being held by Fire Rescue Victoria employees “seconded” to CFA. This will detract from unity within the CFA, of which was a clear recommendation out of the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission.
- Significant control of the CFA being held by the UFU via FRV's proposed interoperability with CFA..

We are calling upon the Andrews Government to immediately cease the introduction of the Fire Fighters Presumption rights Compensation and fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) bill 2017 and consult with CFA management, VFBV and CFA volunteers.

We too are committed to the introduction of a workable model, but this cannot happen without consultation.

Respectfully Yours.

Ian Nash