

Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 6
Submitted by: Name Withheld
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Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee,

Thank you for allowing our submissions.

My name is [REDACTED] I'm a rural firefighter in a brigade in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. We have a decent membership and often have call-outs. I wish to leave my thoughts on the legislation changes as a member of RFS.

I ask my name remains private.

I wholeheartedly support the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I've witnessed poor behavior in brigades including allegations of theft of brigade's money. Each Brigade raises and manages their own funds. One of our local brigades had long standing rumors the senior leadership had stolen funds. Currently the commissioner has no way to dismiss members who participate in this type of behavior. Changes to the legislation will allow the commissioner to take the correct measures once adequate investigations and natural justice have taken place. Even in QFES, Volunteers and Brigades need to be held to account and forms of standards. It's in the public's interest and expectations.

Having a Chief officer as responsible for the day-to-day management and running of RFSQ and Rural Fire Brigades is the correct move. The CO will be able to better focus solely on RFSQ and advocate for greater resources, funding and support but also to ensure RFSQ is functioning adequately.

Having An advisory body established to provide advice to the CO will allow volunteers to have a voice and their say and allow RFS to slowly grow into an even better emergency service.

I have family in Victoria who are in the CFA. My view is the complete split between the CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria does not work. Having them as two separate departments has lead to even more fighting and disagreements. There's anger over the discrepancy in funding between the two departments. There has also been a huge exodus in volunteers in the CFA after they split the departments.

Keeping QFES and RFS under one banner in one department is the absolute correct move and in the best interest of QLD and Volunteers. It will allow for greater collaboration, sharing of staff and resources but also better delivery of fire and emergency services to QLD. There needs to be a focus on effective delivery of fire services to all of QLD. Splitting the force would disadvantage RFS as it would be harder for them to have the same funding, staff levels or resources.

Lastly, knowing that I will be now going to jobs and have the full protections at jobs is a huge relief. For many in RFS, they had the same concerns of if they are protected when out protecting our communities. This is a change that's been needed for ages and is really good to see.

This bill is in the public interest and I commend the government for its work on it. This will significantly improve the delivery of fire services to Queensland.

Kind Regards

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