

Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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**Submission re Disaster Management &
Other Legislative Amendment Bill 2024**

I have been a volunteer firefighter & brigade member for over 30 years. At least 25 of those years I have held positions of Treasurer, 2nd officer or 1st officer. I currently hold the position of 1st officer. Over the years, due to increased government interference, rules & regulations, I have seen brigades (not only our brigade) go from being brigades which are very much local community groups with local community ownership & engagement to entities with dwindling local ownership & engagement. This has led to the erosion of local membership, experience & local knowledge in general. My concerns that with continuing increased government interference this will lead to a further decrease in volunteer numbers eventually leading to a full government takeover & fully paid staff being no option. A classic example of government interference is the introduction of Blue Cards & minimum training requirements which have led to locals saying it is just too hard to join the brigade. This is only one example of many. There is less “ownership” of the brigade these years as a result. This proposed legislation suggest more powers to government officers thus escalating the situation.