

Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Joanne Brown
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From: Joanne Brown [Redacted]
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To: Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Subject: Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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As a volunteer Rural Firefighter for 13 years of our small community of Teewah, I am so disappointed by the disregard and stand over draft legislation tactics unfolding around us.

The total disregard of the voice, understanding, knowledge of our passionate RFB volunteers to be able to work together and respond to fire emergency situations, support each other without Fire & Rescue senior officers being able to take that independence and control of situations in our communities away is simply destructive.

Our Rural Fire Brigades need to be able to operate independently but also alongside Fire & Rescue crews and not be controlled by a Fire & Rescue commissioner who does not understand our local environment and crews. To take away our power to operate independently could even prove dangerous if delays are caused by a control process alienated from local knowledge and communication networks.

Particularly sad to see decisions being made that have resulted in resignations and intimidation of valued key members of our Rural Fire Service and the lack of consultation about the draft legislation has caused confusion, distrust and disappointment amongst our volunteer Rural Fire Fighter community.

Our Teewah Rural Fire Brigade find this Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 draft poorly developed and will not have a positive effect.

Please commit to a fully independent Rural Fire Service Queensland with a Chief Officer from a brigade background who reports and communicates on our behalf , supports Rural Fire Service staff to help mitigate risk from bushfire, respond to fires and other emergencies, provide education and help support our communities.

Sincerely

Joanne Brown
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