

## Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 31  
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**Subject:** Submission COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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The opinions expressed in this submission are mine alone and don't reflect submissions prepared by Samford Rural Fire Brigade and or Pine Rivers Rural Fire Group.

I have been an active volunteer firefighter with Samford Rural Fire Brigade joining on 4/12/2000 holding various roles currently I am 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer.  
Hold the role of Deputy Group Officer (Pine Rivers Group) for the last several years.  
Also, I am a qualified licensed Queensland Fire Safety Advisor (FSA)

First item I would like to raise is my disappointment in the very limited time from the release of the working draft to make a submission and trying to rush this vital bill though.

My concerns are around the wording and the poor representation of the Rural Fire Service and local Communities.

This draft in my opinion focuses with the help of the Unions and senior Queensland Fire and Rescue and is bias to these groups.

This will lead rewarding and nepotism towards fire and rescue staff.

#### Item 2

The appointment of the Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Commissioners Executive Officer (Staff of QFES) are biased towards Fire and Rescue by inserting.

- A person is eligible for appointment as Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Commissioners, Executive Officer only if that person has-
- (a) professional firefighting experience and
- (b) incident control expertise and
- (c) fire prevention expertise

The above insert would have prevented the appointment of former Commissioner Katarina Carroll and former Deputy Commissioner Joanne Greenfield. Both were held in high esteem with front line staff /volunteers and the general public. I see this wording is detrimental to potential staff coming from Rural Fire Service Officers, Parks and Wildlife, Disaster Management, Military and Females to name a few. Any large organisation should be made up with a broader skill set.

Item 3

13 Amendment of 7A (Functions of Commissioner)

(c) to decide the number and deployment of fire service officers and rural fire brigade members.

My understanding of this wording the commissioner can direct / dictate size of a brigade force volunteers to join another brigade or go deployment.

(g) to decide the dress or appearance of fire service officers and rural fire brigade members.

80. Appointment of rural fire brigade members

(1) The commissioner may appoint a person as a member of a rural fire brigade

(2) A rural fire brigade member –

(a) is appointed on the term stated in the in the instrument of appointment.

(b) may resign the appointment by signed notice given by to the commissioner.

The role of the commissioner to dictate who can be a member of a brigade and appearance this should be controlled by the brigade and local community's standards.

Members don't join the fire service they join the brigade (to protect the community) therefore if they chose to resign this matter between the member and the brigade.

2A How objects are to be achieved

(b) recognition of the valuable role of volunteers in supporting the delivery of fire and emergency services in the state.

Delete the wording *in supporting* and recognise include the **Community** and State.

I find it offensive that the rural fire service is considered as supporting and in some areas of the state they are the only emergency service available.

## Part 2

### RFS advisory committee

My understanding during the road show and focus groups that this was to be a Rural Fire Board which was to be made up with representative nominated by the volunteers and NOT THE MINISTER. This board would have input into the decision – making. This reflected in the draft bill ?

I would have like more time to review this draft bill I am sure I have missed items and would have made additional comments.

Marc Wall

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