

## Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 46  
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**Submitter Comments:**

Committee Secretary,

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee,

Parliament House George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000.

## **Submission on the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.**

I have been a member of the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade for 25 years having joined as a result of a fire brigade community meeting held in the Upper Brookfield hall. I had recently moved to Brookfield and felt inspired to become a member as I had some practical skills and wanted to help where necessary. The brigade was formed by a bunch of guys from the “Fruit and Vegetable Co-op” back in 1957 and relied on their ability, knowledge and their own resources to protect their community. In 1958 they became part of the Rural fire Board. I believe that this community spirit has continued to the present day.

Today I am the Fire Warden for two fire warden districts and am on the executive of the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade as well as the bridges treasurer.

Obviously, I have become aware of the changes proposed by the above BILL 2024. Firstly I am surprised that this bill has progressed as far as it has without any sort of feedback by whom it may effect, and secondly that we have seven (7) days to make a submission. It would be naive to assume that any one really had even seven days to respond considering the weekend and the time for the word to get around. To me that sounds like there is alternative motivations. I am disappointed that all the fire fighting community hasn't had a fair go.

From what I am reading and trying to understand is that this legislation is bad legislation for the rural fire community. It seems to point to the fact that all control has to come from paid career personal at the expense of the overwhelming experience, voluntary commitment and the voice of the largest stakeholder in fire in Queensland.

I understand the need for structure and systems in the big picture but surely the rural fire people should be able to control and make decisions that relate to their field of expertise. Of course there needs to be cooperation and links between Fire & Rescue and Rural Fire but we do have different skill sets and areas of operation. Another salient point is that it appears that funding of the rural fire sector comes at the discretion of the Fire & Rescue. The Rural Fire sector, in my opinion, should have their own separate funding.

There is a distinct feeling I have become aware of in my brigade and in the local community of disappointment and wonderment as to where this is all going. They are concerned for their safety, especially living in a vulnerable suburb in a fire zone. In practical terms we live here and we care about our community.

I submit this submission for your consideration.

Regards

Michael Gordon.