

Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 49
Submitted by: Richard Hodgson
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, In regard to the proposed new QFD and the associated Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, I wish the committee to consider these points, as the current proposal in front of the Government does NOT appear to be overall in the best interest of the communities at risk of wildfires, nor in the best interest of protecting and supporting the on-ground activities of the Rural Fire Service Brigades and individual members. This bill is grossly objectionable with a title containing the words "... Other Legislation ..." This wording implies that anything could be added into the Bill, which includes irrelevant aspects to the disaster management in our State. As a volunteer member of a local RFS Brigade, it is most disappointing that as a group we were given very little information on the development of the Bill and the pros/cons for our local community and member Brigades. That is even when our Volunteer Officer Leaders did not know particulars of the developing Bill. That is until just before the Bill was announced. Overall, there are some good components to the new Bill, and there are some very worrying aspects to the Bill. These worrying aspects need to be much better formulated to include input from the RFS volunteer network, who has the interaction and support within the communities affected by wildfires. There is insufficient time here to outline all the negative issues and to provide suggestions for improvements and changes, to make the new Bill a strong and active Amendment that supports all communities groups, all volunteer RFS Brigades and the cooperation with the Urban Brigades. For a fuller description of the difficulties with the current proposed Bill, please do really consider the opinions and submissions and suggestions from the volunteer RFS Officer leaders.