

From: [gatton.springdale Rfb](#)
To: [Finance and Administration Committee](#)
Subject: Gatton Springdale Rural Fire Brigade Submission - Presumptive Legislation affecting Urban and Rural Firefighters
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 10:24:20 AM

Your Ref B6/B7.15.683
Dated 24 July 2015

Di Farmer MP
Chair
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street,
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Re: Inquiries into the Workers and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and Worker's Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2015.

I refer to your committees inquiry into the above matters and list the following issues for your consideration.

1. The private members bill (introduced by the member for Kawana) gives volunteers the same level of protection as paid firefighters.
2. The Governments bill does not.
3. The Governments bill proposes that whilst paid firefighters are covered from the first fire they attend, volunteers have to attend 150 fires before they are eligible.
4. The Government legislation discriminates against volunteer firefighters.
5. We deserve the same level of protection as auxiliaries and full time firefighters.
6. We attend just as many fires including grass, structural and vehicle, as many auxiliary brigades.
7. We stand in the same smoke alongside paid firefighters and yet the volunteer firefighter does not get the same level of cover under the Governments proposed bill.

In summary, our Brigade does not support the Governments bill as it provides less protection to us than it does paid firefighters. **The Governments proposed legislation is discriminatory to rural firefighters.** Our Brigade supports the private members bill that provides equal protection to all firefighters regardless of their pay status.

Yours Sincerely

Graham Hunt
Secretary
Gatton Springdale Rural Fire Brigade

