

From: [jim & anna](#)
To: [Finance and Administration Committee](#)
Subject: Protecting Firefighters-Bill Amendment Submission.
Date: Monday, August 3, 2015 10:20:15 AM

Finance and Administration Committee.
Parliament House.
Brisbane Qld 4000

Submission regarding the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and other Amendment Bill 2015 and Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Fire Fighters) Amendment Bill 2015.

As secretary for the Mungar Yerra Rural Fire Brigade I am writing to express concerns of local fire fighters.

Any legislation that presumes to treat volunteers less favourably than paid workers is seriously undervaluing the contribution of volunteers. No one considers what the wages bill would be for volunteer fire fighters in any given fire season if they were paid, yet there are unsubstantiated concerns that the Compensation costs would be huge.

Introduction of discriminatory legislation based on paid or unpaid work when environmental factors are the same will only reduce moral of volunteers, undervalue their contribution and generally make it harder to retain and attract members.

The increasing fire risk in our environment means that the community's need for volunteer fire fighters, especially in rural areas, will be greater in the future.

We need to be doing all we can to attract and retain volunteers, treating them as highly valued members of our community.

We trust that changes to the above mentioned bills will reflect this.

Sincerely,

Anna Szyszka
Secretary.

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