

## **ORMEAU Rural Fire Brigade**

3 August 2015

Finance and Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane QLD 4000

### **Submission on Presumptive Legislation “Inquiries into the Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015”**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I’m writing to you on behalf of the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade.

The Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade was founded in 1970 and is part of Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ). We cover an area stretching as far south as Coomera and north to Yatala. Ormeau is located on the northern end of the Gold Coast in South East Queensland and has currently 94 members. Being classed as an izone brigade means that our members do not only deal with bush fires but also attend structural and vehicle fires and as well as road accident incidents.

With our submission we seek equal immediate protection for urban, auxiliary and rural fire service personnel.

Rural Fire Service volunteers are being asked to attend 150 exposure incidents before being eligible to receive compensation whereas urban and auxiliary members are covered from the first exposure incident they attend. This is clearly a discrimination against 36,000 volunteer rural fire fighters and fire wardens and cannot be accepted.

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## **ORMEAU Rural Fire Brigade**

As a rural fire brigade most of the incidents we attend are wildfires. Not knowing what we will find on scene and what we are getting exposed to we are ready to despatch our volunteers every day of the year to help protecting our local community in emergency situations. In our brigade we have sixteen year old students, young parents as well as senior members who are willing to give up their time to help others, sometimes risking their own lives.

The Queensland Government as our employer has an obligation to protect all members who are doing the same work equally. A difference in protection would raise the questions – what are we as rural fire service volunteers worth?

We therefore seek equal protection for urban, auxiliary and rural fire service personnel.

If you have any questions regarding this submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours



**Ben Macht**  
Secretary  
Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade