



Geoff Fowkes  
Secretary Yabba Creek Rural Fire Brigade



02 August 2015

Dear Madam Chair,

Ref: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The Yabba Creek Rural Fire Brigade object strongly to the discriminatory nature of the restrictions applied to rural firefighters if they need to apply for workers' compensation in respect of the 12 specified cancers. Part of the Bill states that rural firefighters are required to attend 150 fires over a 5 year period before they become eligible to claim. There is no such restriction on full-time and auxiliary firefighters, many of whom, particularly those in rural areas, would not attend 150 fires in a 5 year period.

It is almost impossible for medical opinion to categorically state how much exposure to toxic smoke and chemicals is required for later development of a cancer. Although there would not be as much exposure to toxicity as would occur in an industrial fire, many containers of toxic material are present in bushland, either stored or abandoned by previous land users and visitors.

In conclusion Yabba Creek RFB request that the Committee amend the relative section of the a/m Bill to include rural firefighters under the same provision as auxiliary and full-time firefighters, thus avoiding an obviously discriminatory decision.

Yours Sincerely,

A small black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Geoff Fowkes.

Geoff Fowkes

c.c. Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie