

# MACLAGAN RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

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The Chair,  
Finance and Administration Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Brisbane.

## ***SUBMISSION ON PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION***

My name is Barry White and I am the secretary of the MacLagan Rural Fire Brigade.

I write to object to requirements of Section 36D(1)(c) of the Workers ' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. This section places the additional requirement on Rural Fire Brigade fire fighters to have to attend 150 incidents in five years before being eligible to claim compensation should they develop cancer as a result of their fire fighting activities. No similar requirement is needed by permanent or auxiliary fire fighters.

If it is accepted that products of fires can cause cancer in fire fighters, then surely all types of fire fighters are at risk. Arguably, Rural Brigade fire fighters are more at risk because they are issued with inferior respirators.

To be eligible for an entitlement, a Rural Fire Brigade member would have to attend to a fire (exposure) every 10 days for five years. By comparison, a permanent / auxiliary fire fighter who has been employed for five years might only attend 4 or 5 call outs per year. (I note the minimum number is one exposure in the 5 year period).

The Section 36D(1)(c) represents blatant discrimination against Rural Fire Brigade fire fighters. I strongly urge you to consider deleting this section from the proposed Bill.

Yours sincerely,

  
Barry White (Sec /Tr)

04/08/2015  
  
