

6th August 2015

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6 Aug 2015
Finance and
Administration Committee

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Lower Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade

2 Mirani Street

Lower Beechmont Q'ld 4211

Re: Inquiry into the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and Worker's Compensation and Rehabilitation [Protecting Firefighters] Amendment Bill 2015

Your Ref: B6/B7 . 15 921

To whom it concerns,

Our rural fire brigade received a letter from Di Farmer notifying us of the above listed inquiry which will be taking place in September 2015. As a result of this our First Officer called a special meeting of our members to discuss this matter, which was held last Monday evening. As a result of that meeting I was later asked by our First Officer to make a submission on behalf of our brigade.

Every brigade member at this meeting was in agreeance that they as fire fighters deserve to be covered by the same Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation guidelines as every other fire fighter regardless of whether they are part of an Urban fire brigade/crew or a Rural fire brigade/crew.

One excellent point raised by our members was that whenever there is an emergency in this state [or any other state for that matter], be it a fire, flood or any other type of emergency incident that Mother Nature throws at us, the Rural fire fighters, who are all volunteers, are always there working alongside the Urban brigade members and all the other emergency services/organisations. Volunteer rural fire fighters have supported their communities, their state and on many occasions they have travelled interstate to assist other communities during an emergency incident.

Why should they, who voluntarily give so much of themselves, their time and in some unfortunate and sad instances, their lives, be treated as any less valuable and worthy of compensation, rehabilitation and support from the Government than any other fire fighters or emergency services personnel.

Sincerely,



Shette Pascoe

Secretary

Lower Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade

