

**From:** [Ned Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014  
**Date:** Thursday, 11 September 2014 4:01:34 PM

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I must give congratulations to the minister and his office on a sterling job on this reduction in red tape and delivering on efficiencies in the area of disaster management. I see this as making the role of frontline disaster response staff easier and less complicated.

I only have two points that I wish to highlight from what I have read in the draft of this Bill.

1. As QLD Ambulance have now become part of QLD Health, it is regrettable that that Health are not primary members of the committee. Not only are the Ambulance service integral to disaster response, there needs to be a greater role by Health in disaster response committees especially in light of this weeks unconfirmed reports of a case of Ebola Virus in the Gold Coast.  
I strongly recommend that health be elevated to a higher level of involvement in the Committee.
2. In light of Crown Law advice on Rural Fire Brigades not legally being part of the QFES, that Volunteer Firefighters are not considered Fire Officers by QFES, that the Disaster Management Act 2003 identifies Government and Non Government Fire Officers, and with the relevant parts of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 which identify SES members in a way that gives them more legal status and power than a volunteer firefighter , one of two things needs to occur.
  - A. Either the Fire & Emergency Services Act needs to be amended to show Volunteer Fire Fighters as being members of QFES (Section 8A says currently that QFES is made up of the Commissioner and Fire Officers. The definition of Fire Officer in Schedule 6 is  
*fire officer* means a person employed in the service who has the functions of fire prevention and fire control, and includes a person employed under this Act who is undergoing training as a fire officer.

By amending this to read

*fire officer* means a person employed in the service in a full time, part time or volunteer basis, who has the functions of fire prevention and fire control, and includes a person employed under this Act who is undergoing training as a fire officer.

we would see much cleared up.

- B. Establish the Rural Fire Service independently under this act as an entity in its own right as non government Fir Officers

Thank you for your consideration

Cheers

Warren Kelly M.A.I.E.S  
First Officer Black River & Districts Rural Fire Brigade.

