

**RECEIVED**

02 MAR 2010

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE****Queensland Government**
Department of Emergency Services

4.

Marburg District Rural Fire Brigade

ABN: 265 815 635 21

Station Address:
Edmond Street
Marburg Qld 4346

Telephone: (07) 54 644 212

Postal Address: c/- Marburg P.O.
Marburg 4346Secretary – Andrea McNicol
Telephone: 54644117
Facsimile: 54644593
Email: andreamcnicol@dodo.com.auThe Research Director
Public Accounts and Public Works Committee
Parliament house
George St.,
Brisbane. Q. 40001st March 2010

Please find below recommended changes to the current Management System of the Rural Fire Service.

1. We would recommend an Independent Department separate from QFRS with its own Commissioner, own reporting structure
2. Rural Fire Brigade to have their own uniforms, not just different epaulets.
3. Rural appliances are currently only replaced after 20 years use, this should be reduced to replacement after 12 years.
4. Rural appliances should be fitted with "Red and blue lights" as is the case with every other States Rural Brigades.
5. Personal Protective Equipment should be the same standard as QFRS grass fire turnout PPE or equivalent to our interstate counterparts.
6. Independent "Complaints and Appeal" committee.
7. Rural Fire Department to be governed by its own policy, procedures and Rural Fire Act not amended QFRS documents.
8. Brigades should be allowed to have their own constitution, which should be approved by an independent panel and this constitution should be recognised by the Commissioner.
9. Under the current Firecom system when a rural truck responds to an incident, the system records it as the whole Brigade, even though there may be still 2 trucks at the station.
10. Rural brigades have boundaries they are responsible for. Part of the benefit of having these boundaries is the local knowledge that the Rural Brigades have, Firecom does not use these boundaries when responding trucks to a fire they use the Urban model of responding closest Brigade based on distance, this model does not and will not work for Rural brigades.
11. If QFRS wish to make changes to rural operation procedures or rules, these changes should be approved by a majority of all Rural Brigades before being implemented.
12. Senior Staff of the Rural Fire Service should come from rural ranks.

We believe QFRS are trying to take control of Rural Fire Brigades instead of assisting us. Frustrations are building and Brigades are at the point of not responding to a fire if it is under QFRS control. The above dot points were ratified at our brigade meeting with unanimous agreement, with all 20 members endorsing the points raised.

Yours truly,

Andrea McNicol
Secretary
On behalf of the Marburg District Rural Fire Brigade