

From: Mike Flanigan [MFlanigan@chrc.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Public Accounts and Public Works Committee
Subject: Management of Rural Fire Services in QLD.
The Chair,

The following points are my own private views and are not those of Council.

I am a former Senior Officer with the QFRS holding both Urban and Rural positions of Area Director and District Inspector.

1. Unify the QFRS into ONE service and dispense with the two existing models....Urban/Rural.
2. Dispense with the position of Assistant Commissioner - Rural Operations - and allow the Regional Commissioners to administer ALL fire services within their area of responsibility.
3. Introduce an equitable funding system, where ALL property owners may contribute a fair and identifiable amount, and distribute the funding according to need.
4. Dispense with individual Brigades holding vast amounts of public (levy) money within their unaccountable accounts...gaining interest !
5. Government funding to the Rural Fire Brigades Association to cease....this is a private business enterprise !
6. A portion of the Rural Levy to be paid to the Fire Wardens who control fire ignition and fire hazards.
7. Encourage Brigades to co locate with SES units, and where capable, WITH URBAN FIRE STATIONS, pool buildings and resources, provide for cross membership to address volunteer numbers, dispense with dual police checks.....SELL ANY SURPLUS BUILDINGS once co location is enacted...Landholder Brigades not affected by this as equipment kept on their properties and should be accountable by an audit trail !
8. Engage with employer groups.
9. Involve Local Government to a greater extent..as with SES units.
10. Dispense with different coloured fire appliances...this promotes the 'them and us' attitude.....suggest lime green for ALL QLD fire trucks...Legislate that this colour to be used on fire trucks only !.....SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE provides for this colour providing the best visibility under all lighting/smoke conditions .
11. Provide Auxilliary 'Urban' Brigades with appropriate 4x4 off road capable trucks, as they attend many rural fire incidents in acceptable timetrames....existing trucks are sealed road surface only.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile phone.

Regards,
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