



COLDSTREAM FIRE BRIGADE



26 August 2015

Mr David O'Byrne
Fire Services Review
Level 19
121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr O'Byrne,

RE: Fire Services Review

Our members first became aware of the review in early August and like most members of our organisation, are exceedingly disappointed at the very short timeline given to interested parties to prepare a submission (August 30), given that the review report is due to the Minister for Emergency Services on September 30, 2015. The UFU and now-sitting Labour Government have had six years to prepare their submission, and the government are now giving the CFA interested parties 30 days in which to prepare their submissions.

Due to the very nature that we are a volunteer organisation, whose members hold full time jobs, it will be almost impossible to meet this timeline, let alone review and comprehensively discuss the documentation provided.

Your office, of course, is aware that CFA volunteers are professional (unpaid) firefighters, who are highly trained to work effectively in many scenarios (including structural and bushfires, motor vehicle incidents, rescue, hazardous material incidents). Our training programmes and community engagement events are conducted in volunteer time and often funded from community fundraising efforts. Community fundraising efforts also supply funds for much needed equipment, not able to be funded by the government. How can the people of Victoria pay for a fully funded system and keep the excellent services to communities, both urban and rural, throughout Victoria?

We have forwarded a similar letter to our local government representatives and State parliamentarians.

Yours faithfully

Julie Asquith
Secretary – on behalf of the members of Coldstream CFA

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