

28/08/2015

Fire Service review

To our Victorian state government, I'm writing to you to put my view about the Victorian fire Service review as a volunteer for the last 30 years in an urban brigade

I spent the last 2 weeks riding half way across Australia on my motor bike with the Black dog riders raising awareness for Depression and Suicide and funds for lifeline because I'm a person who is concerned with the welfare of others in this great country, during that ride through observation that Victoria has the poorest roads out of the 3 states I road through, full of potholes, poor line marking, trees and vegetation right on the roads edge, drains full of growth and speed limit changes that are so frustrating , **This I see as an issue**

We have a Royal children's hospital appeal which I help raise money via the CFA, this is done by Volunteers, it is not a requirement by the people of Victoria that they have to do it, but the government actually apply this in the budget , we do it because our hospital system is under so much pressure **This I see as an issue**

With my job I do a lot of driving, I find that during my day there is so much time that is unproductive due to the road network clogged and not able to handle the ever building volume of traffic, **This I see as an issue**

I think you get the picture

What I don't see as an issue is the world's best volunteer fire service which we have in Victoria, as a firefighter in an urban area we not only look after our area but also support neighbouring communities and brigades including the MFB, and it works well. **So why try and fix something that isn't broken**

I have never been to a call yet where we have lost a life or property because we were volunteers

My time in the CFA I have never protested for better pay and conditions, I do what is asked of me, I use what is given to me , and I take nothing in return except respect from my community, and the friendships along the way

I am not stupid and the rest of Victoria is not either, this review on the fire service is being done for one reason only, and at what cost to Victoria \$\$\$, for something that works extremely well, you want to fix it while there are so many other issues in this wonderful state that need fixing and they don't get a look in. **PAY BACK to the UFU**. This is an absolute insult to all the fantastic people that have put their lives on hold day after day to help others, who have their heart and sole attached to make the CFA what it is and you give us 4 weeks to submit our side, The appointment of a Unionised Tasmanian who has no understanding of the volunteers and would be bias in his opinion shows that this is just a smoke and mirrors show,

Carefully think about what the government is doing, it isn't broken so there is no need to fix it, please put your energies where it's needed to make this state great again

Kind Regards

Rob Sibbing [REDACTED] CFA volunteer and proud to serve