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From:
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 4:30 PM
To: DCS:Minister Piccolo
Subject: Emergency Services .

Minister Piccolo

Re this review of ES structure .I feel that your paper has selected views and the true feeling of CFS volunteers is not apparent.

I feel that the "integration" of sectors is not the way to go as I believe the paid section will gradually grow to the detriment of the Volunteer as did happen with St John/SAAS. This being Union driven . Just consider all CFS/SES volunteers were to join the union then asked to be Paid/ reimbursed for there time, ie. a retainer etc. remembering that MFS paid , get annual salary increases ,Vollys don't.

Within your Structure you suggest a combination at a Regional level , will this turn out to be a position for close to retirement MFS Officers ? (a lead into a greater control by the Paid sector)

This overall structure to me seems to have a possible flaw as it is possible to have a CEO/ Commissioner whom is pro one or other sector and will progress that line over others.

As a CFS Volunteer of over 30 years I have seen changes from a local/ Local Govt. funded system to a State (via) the ESL funded one and we have moved forward to well presented body. Are we going to lose the expertise of the CFS Management in Rural type fires, Bush fires ,aerial fire fighting , etc. in this Integration.

Each sector has specialised roles that are not common with the other ie. CFS Rural firefighting , MFS ,High density/high rise fire fighting, SES , search and rescue and Marine. Whilst all have some common areas of response , RCR , flooding etc.

Sector training is fit for purpose for the sector how is this to be maintained . However common facilities would make sense .

I feel that each sector should stay as is structurally With maybe a commissioner and each Chief Officer as a governance . More power to COs to hire /fire staff ,and set performance levels that need to be met.

Try to correct the wastage that is occurring parallel to the sector .

Huge savings are out there to be made in areas of , Collecting the ESL, managing infrastructure, ie. buildings ,Appliances .

A typical MFS station \$6 million plus ; a typical CFS station 300K. (a300K CFS station if managed by local Region/Group could be built for 150K built to same specifications.)

Allowing each sector the ability to purchase vehicles rather that via Govt. purchasing, or leasing via state fleet . Extremely expensive as lease pays for the vehicle in 4years then SF sells it at a huge profit .

With all the dissatisfaction towards the ESL it is a must, however it firstly should be affixed percentage to property values as per Govt. Valuations not a fluctuating levy to balance how much the treasury is prepared to set for emergency services.

Deep down I don't think that the volunteer will be happy with or prepared to accept your last paper. We will finish up back where we were 20 years ago.

As a foot note some CFA stations that house Paid, retained and volunteers have segregated ready rooms , one for paid (very good all mods gym etc. retained not as good volunteers minimal).