

#38

Rosmini, Michelle (DCS)

From: John Simpson <feetnframes1@bigpond.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 7:54 AM
To: DCS:Minister Piccolo
Subject: Sector reforms

*cl. J.
Please ack.
Michelle*

Dear Minister,

I believe that the proposed changes will be a disaster and will end up costing more money (Im sure just this process is already costing a good chunk of our annual budget) and many SES and CFS volunteers rethinking their commitment to the services. At the UMAG teleconference meeting last night there was overwhelming support for rejecting any sector reforms.

The services are functioning very well and have been steadily improving , especially during and in the wake of the Bangor fires. Every person that volunteers does so because we love our community and and enjoy being part of a unified team to battle disaster and what what ever comes our way. We all spend our own time any money, it personally costs me money every time I go to a call out during working hours (\$35.00 P/Hr) as I employ a contractor for my work and I don't expect him to sit around and not get paid because some elderly person has gone missing, or SAPOL need assistance with a evidence search.

The ESL has been raised to accommodate the federal budget issues , so I don't see why anything has to change as funding seems to be similar as previous years and what your doing is clearly a cost cutting exercise. You said in meetings that no jobs would be lost, well thats is not possible, looking at the current proposal.

I believe the structure of command should stay as is, this is what were all happy with and don't want to see it changed.

The only changes I can suggest are what I mentioned in a previous email , and that is some Admin tasks and procurement procedure could be streamlined, with the Govt having a central store with all the tools and equip needed for all services. Consultation needs to happen though regarding the brand and types of equipment needs. This should inc Vehicles as some units have vehicle that are not suited to the terrain in their area.

I suggest that being new to this portfolio and if you want to have any sense of pride and achievement and not end up with egg on your face, you should go back to treasury, say you have looked hard into the services and tell them that what really needs to happen is more funding for us all and that sector reforms will just alienate the volunteers to the point that there may not be any. Don't think that you can just get more either, as one or your colleges suggested, its hard enough finding them now.

Coming up will now be an onslaught of media attention to raise public awareness of what this Govt is trying to do with the real possibility of protests outside parliament house. The public are our major supporters and if we all shout loud enough there will be a massive public backlash against your Govt and department, especially in the light of the ESL rise, this reform will be the last straw for them.

John Simpson
Deputy Unit Manager
SASES Quorn

0409 670 336