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**Labbozzetta, Joe (DCS)**

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**From:** Robert Maddern <rlmaddern48@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 26 October 2014 4:18 PM  
**To:** DCS:Minister Piccolo  
**Cc:** Neil H. Ellis  
**Subject:** sector reforms

Minister,  
Having read your reform document, I must express my thoughts on your proposal.  
I realise that I am a bit late sending them to you but as I have been away this is my first chance.

Your discussion paper says that there are two criteria for driving the reform.

The first is the Holloway report. It appears to me that this recommendation is philosophical as much as anything.

Secondly "as well as to achieve budget sustainability within the fire and emergency services sector."  
I haven't observed any figures as to where the savings are going to be made as we all know that there is an annual increase in spending on things like wages etc.

I liken this proposal of yours to trying to combine the Adelaide Football club and with the Adelaide United soccer club. Great savings could be made by this move as there would be an ability to have one coaching staff, one training staff and one CEO and less staff. They play at different times of the year so there would not be a clash during the year.

I believe that you would scoff at that idea as the two sports are completely different. Different rules, different equipment, different ethos, different culture. The only thing in common would be the name football.

I would suggest that a similar argument could be mounted in regard to trying to bring together the emergency services. There are different rules, different equipment, different ethos and a different culture. Trying to bring together organisations that have been separate for more than 60 years will be a monumental task and risks alienating many people especially volunteers.

Obviously to loose volunteers would mean that there would need to be an increase in paid staff which would then be additional costs.

I would like to bring to your attention one aspect that highlights the difference between CFS and MFS. Consider the make of vehicles that the two services use. The CFS predominately uses a Japanese make of vehicle whereas the MFS uses predominately European vehicles. The cost difference is what???. Does the MFS really need such expensive vehicles?

Another area of vast difference is the cost of stations. MFS appear to have far grander buildings than CFS. I think you can get the direction I am coming from.

There can be great monetary savings that can be made if there is a will to do so.

Combing all the emergency services wont save money, and my prediction is that within 5 years there will be a significant increase in the cost of emergency services.

My other prediction is that there will not be a harmonious emergency sector if the amalgamation goes ahead as there is to big a cultural difference within emergency services.

Robert Maddern AFSM  
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