

Songer, Rachael (DCS)

From: Micah Doecke (CFS:CLAY) <Micah.Doecke@sacsvolunteer.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2014 10:34 PM
To: DCS:Minister Piccolo
Subject: sector reforms

Dear Minister Piccolo,

I am a volunteer firefighter in the CFS and I am writing in regards to the proposed sector reforms. I have read the reviews and the discussion paper and while I do believe the emergency sector needs reforms, I do not believe most of the proposed changes will help. The proposal to place CFS, MFS and SES under one chief officer I find very disturbing given, amongst others, the vast differences in the type of firefighting and responsibilities between the MFS and CFS. At the higher levels the knowledge and expertise specific to CFS will be lost and the one chief officer will be overburdened with overseeing and properly understanding and reacting to the concerns of such a broad sector. I believe that if these changes happen there will be a terrible breakdown in communication between firefighters, brigades and groups, and regions and the chief officer. If I pick up the phone now and ring up CFS region 2 for example, I know that I will get someone that has a great understanding of the concerns and matters unique to CFS and this will be lost in the new model. This will also be hard on MFS who have their own unique concerns and area of responsibility. Please understand that many, many firefighters in CFS, many of them my mates, feel that if the government wants to change the way the sector functions, they will do it regardless of their concerns and I personally know this is why many more are not voicing their concerns about these changes because they think it's a waste of time. We just want to do our job well and communication up and down the chain of command is so important to us. I absolutely agree with you that there are areas in the emergency services that need reforms but placing three services in one department is NOT the way to go because of the huge problems involved. I appreciate that you have put a lot of work into this but I believe it will have massive complications for MFS and CFS that will far outweigh any good.

Kind regards, Micah Doecke