



16 December 2016

Mr Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM  
Commissioner  
NSW Rural Fire Service  
Locked Bag 17  
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Dear Mr Fitzsimmons,

I refer to the 61st Meeting of the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee (FSJSC) held 17 November during which it was moved by the FBEU and seconded by FRNSW:

*That the correspondence from the FBEU dated 2 November 2016 and attached Hornsby/Kuringai RFS leaflet regarding a proposed new RFS brigade at Killara be received and that the FSJSC:*

- *records its concern that the proposal was neither flagged with nor considered by this Committee prior to the Hornsby/Kuringai RFS seeking 'feedback' from the local community, including the distribution of supporting flyers and door knocking local residents within the Fire District; and*
- *confirms that in the absence of any obvious need for this brigade and /or any consideration by this Committee of the proposal, that there should be no further planning of, or public agitation for, a new volunteer brigade before this Committee has considered and endorsed this or any similar proposal.*

The rationale of the RFS and RFSA representatives (yourself included) who then spoke and voted as a bloc to defeat the motion was essentially that the number, type and/or location of resources within each service's jurisdiction was a matter for each service and not the FSJSC.

The FSJSC is charged with numerous functions under Section 5 of the *Fire Services Joint Standing Committee Act*, including "to develop and submit to the Minister strategic plans for the delivery of comprehensive, balanced and co-ordinated urban and rural fire services at the interface of fire district and rural fire district boundaries". If the proposed creation of a new volunteer RFS brigade on the Sydney Fire District boundary and a stone's throw from an existing FRNSW station is not within the FSJSC's remit, then what is?

The Union will revisit this issue in due course but the purpose of my writing now is to caution the RFS against mistaking the FSJSC's rejection of that motion as some sort of green light for its provocative Killara proposal. It was not.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury  
State Secretary

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