

Finance and Administration Committee

From: HALES Dianne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2015 9:10 AM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: rural firefighters

Dear Sir,

My name is Dianne Hales and along with my Husband Marcus we are part of the rural fire brigade of IONA which is situated about 10km west of Emerald on the Longreach Highway. Our district is very large and we encompasses the Fairbairn SF which has an area of 16,000 acres. Whilst we have only been members since 2000 we work with other rural and urban brigades offering support where we can. There is no average amount of time each year that we would attend fires as some years are worse than others. My husband and I both have full time jobs (which we cannot leave during the day) as do most of the people in the brigade, but have attended call outs at night and over weekends when available. I feel that by not offering the same compensation deal to the volunteers as to the Urbans firefighters, that the government is showing that we are not valued as highly and our unpaid time and effort to help save peoples properties and indeed livelyhood (ie cropping and pastoral farmland) is not as important as saving people's houses in the towns and cities. Most of our volunteer brigades are the only brigade that a lot of rural people have and know that we will respond to fires threatening their properties. Lung Cancers don't discriminate so neither should the government.

Cheers

Dianne Hales

Treasure of Iona Rural Fire Brigade
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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