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Volunteer firefighters hopeful of restructure reversal. 22/03/2007. ABC News Online

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Volunteer firefighters hopeful of restructure reversal

Volunteer firefighters are hopeful there is still time to reverse the decision to restructure the ACT's emergency services.

A mass resignation of fire crew chiefs was staged outside the Legislative Assembly in Canberra last week to demonstrate the group's strong opposition to bringing all firefighting bodies under the one deputy commissioner.

Pat Barling from the Volunteers Association says the Commissioner wants their input and has told them the changes will not be made now until June.

But Mr Barling says it is not clear if that means the restructure is on hold.

"It's a bit confusing because we're trying to work out what's changed suddenly," he said.

"The media release he put out talks about the 2nd of April.

"They've advertised for a deputy commissioner's position.

"The ground rules seem to have changed again.

"It makes it very difficult for us when the goal posts keep moving for us.

"We want to fix this as soon as possible, we want to get around the table and sort this out.

"All we're asking from the Commissioner is a clear commitment to put a hold on the new restructure so we can sit down and start negotiating a proper structure that is operationally focused."

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