

Kirra Vanzetti

From: William Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 10:18 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Inquiry into the firefighters' presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017.

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

I am
 William Robertson
 Senior Station Officer Point Cook
 Employed by Country Fire Authority
 33 years as a professional firefighter, 6 years as a volunteer firefighter
 I live in Ocean Grove and Docklands and work in Point Cook.
 I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:
 Because as a firefighter it is important to have guaranteed back up. A guarantee that two trucks with at least 7 fire fighters will dispatched within 8 minutes.
 I have attended many fires and incidents during my career not knowing what your backup and skills mix will be. This is very stressful and dangerous.
 This will provide far better protection for our community which we are employed to protect. It will also enable us to do a sometimes very dangerous job more safely and give us the best chance to return to our families at the end of our shift.
 The employment of all career fire fighters in one fire service will have absolutely no effect on volunteer turnout or surge capacity.
 Volunteers will still get the support they need and deserve from staff employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA.
 The reform areas around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas will not affect other volunteer brigades or their ability to respond to bush fires.
 The CFA has changed enormously during my career and many areas are no longer "Country" but highly urbanised with densely populated suburbs with significant risks.
 This reform will provide standardised training with specialist response and standardised equipment.
 It saddens me and my family the damage this dispute has caused to myself, my family, my colleagues and the job that I love. I no longer wear my uniform to and from work because of the abuse that I sometimes receive. The constant barrage in the print media has portrayed professional fire fighters in Victoria as lazy, over paid union thugs. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am proud of the job that I do and am proud to be a member of the United Fire fighters Union. This reform will alleviate the stress and strain that many in the fire service are feeling.
 This reform will benefit all volunteers as it includes funding to assist with recruitment, retention and upgrades for volunteer stations.
 Yours sincerely
 William Robertson
 1704/9 Waterside place
 Docklands,3008



Bill Robertson Senior Station Officer
 Point Cook Fire Station 85 – 93 Dunnings Road Point Cook Vic 3030
 [REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



cfa.vic.gov.au



This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.