

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017**

**1. I am:**

Gavin Andrew Hope, an Operations Officer with the Country Fire Authority. I have been employed by the CFA for over 30 years and I was previously a volunteer firefighter for ten years.

Currently working in District 15 Headquarters (Ballarat) as an Operations Officer at Level 4 qualifications and have held the position of Operations Officer since 2002.

**2. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:**

- A single Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for all career firefighters
- A single organisation covering all career firefighters
- Savings to be made on current duplication, including uniforms, PPC, equipment and appliances.
- Allows CFA to concentrate on it's core business of supporting volunteers and brigades, not having senior officers getting bogged down with industrial issues
- VFBV can focus back on better conditions and equipment for volunteer members, not getting involved career staff EBAs every four years
- Implementation recommendations of the Fire Services Review tabled in March 2016
- Guaranteed response of two appliances with seven career firefighters on scene within eight minutes in FRV (Fire Rescue Victoria) areas
- Increased safety for firefighters with at least seven on the fireground at structure fires
- Increased public safety confidence in response on scene within eight minutes of call received in FRV areas
- Increased support to CFA brigades adjacent to FRV areas
- No loss in surge capacity as FRV brigades will respond the same as CFA integrated brigades do now.
- Volunteers co-located at FRV station can also still provide surge capacity to fire and flood events
- Pumpers fitted with Road Rescue capability will provide fast casualty extraction in and adjacent to FRV area.
- Pumpers fitted with Emergency Medical Response capability will provide urgent casualty support to Ambulance Victoria in and adjacent to FRV area.
- CFA Regional and Rural brigades provided with an additional 100 million dollars in funding to further enhance services to Regional Communities
- Similar to effective fire service models currently used elsewhere in Australia and around the world
- CFA retains current operational and administrative support staff who support volunteers
- No CFA volunteer brigades will be closed down

- Presumptive legislation for cancer victims in line with other Australian states
- Ever increasing population within Victoria, over 100 Thousand/year which puts increased workload expectation of volunteers due to all hazards approach
- Special panel to continually assess fire service need in this ever growing State. Able to relieve the work load on Volunteers by supplementing them career firefighters from FRV. CFA already has busy urban fully volunteer brigades attending over ten call outs/week. This will provide them with the fulfilment of Volunteer membership while ensuring a better work, voluntary, life balance.

Yours Sincerely

Gavin Andrew Hope

Operations Officer

CFA

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