

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** Marcus Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 July 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** RE: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

My name is Marcus Smith and I am a Professional Qualified firefighter with the CFA and have been for the last 6 years. Within this time I have trained tirelessly to be the best firefighter possible including and not limited to specialising in rope rescue, road accident rescue and an operator on the 42m Ladder Platform.

I currently live in Armstrong Creek and am based at Geelong City Fire Station.

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

- As a firefighter it is important to have guaranteed backup in an emergency situation. If myself or anyone else in my team was to be hurt in any way, who is going to be there to help us? Especially when volunteers are not guaranteed to turn up. This where two trucks with at least 7 firefighters should be on the fire ground at one time.
- With at least 7 firefighters on the fire ground, us as emergency responders feel a lot safer in performing our life risking duties. And also the safety of the public. More trained up team members to help us search for any persons that may be trapped in a burning structure whilst also lessening the damage to a building as more water would be applied.
- The response capability is quicker for the community therefore more protection. In many many cases along the bellerine where we support in our pumper with 3 members, volunteers in that area don't turn up at all. Our safety and the public safety is at risk.
- The volunteers will NOT be affected and they can still turn out as normal. We will still continue to work together in providing quality service delivery, but now it will be even greater with a better response.
- The reform areas around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas will have no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response. So as I said, NO disruption to the volunteers.
- All career staff being employed by one fire service will assist with standardisation of career training, specialist response, response standards and equipment.

All this nonsense and damage this has caused in the workplace has gone on long enough and its time to stop. Its causing stress at work and additional strain that has been pushed onto my family.

Please sign off on this reform so we as firefighters can go back to providing a professional emergency service for you, your family and the community.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Smith

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[REDACTED]