

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Joseph Wiegerink [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 8:31 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Joe Wiegerink and I have been a professional MFB fire-fighter for almost 2 years. I am currently based at FS43 in the suburb of Deer Park.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised, as part of the reform of the fire services. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career fire-fighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer fire-fighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself as a fire-fighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our fire-fighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire-fighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also ask that you give consideration to the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both this and fire service reform need to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the upcoming fire season.

Being relatively new to the job and with the hope of starting a family in the near future, I deeply feel that what has been proposed is common sense and puts at ease both the Victorian community and families and loved ones of those who put their life of the line to protect others.

Kind regards,

Joe Wiegerink
Fire-Fighter
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board

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