



"CALDWELL, Andrew"

07/07/2017 04:07 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission for fire services reform..docx

1 attachment



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Please find attached submission.

Regards, Andrew.

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Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Re: *Inquiry into Firefighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017*

My name is Andrew Caldwell and I am currently employed as a Leading Firefighter at FS22 Ringwood. I have been employed with the MFB for the past 13 years and have specialist credentials in Teleboom and as a High Angle Rescue Operator.

Two years ago, my family and I moved to Warrandyte to a larger property and a lovely family home. Our only concerns were snakes and fires. The snakes, we can't do much about, however, we were pleasantly relieved when South Warrandyte CFA station became a full time station with professional firefighters. Warrandyte has an increasingly growing population and is regarded as one of the world's high risk areas with the population, topography of the land, fuel load and lack of egress and escape routes.

Having a full time service in Warrandyte was an important step in modernising a highly urbanised area. This will only improve quicker response times and allow 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks as the minimum standard.

As a resident of one of these "country areas", it seems ludicrous that boundaries haven't changed in 60 years. The time for a reform is now for the safety and wellbeing of a massive population and growing communities.

Please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform. It will ensure the safety of your constituents, the safety of firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demands being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me and my colleagues.

Regards,

LFF Andrew Caldwell

