



"LITTERBACH, Ian"

07/07/2017 03:28 PM

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

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is Ian Litterbach and I currently reside in Tecoma, Victoria. I have lived in the Dandenong Ranges my entire life and as such my family and property has always been protected by CFA Volunteer Firefighters.

I have been in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for almost six years now where I have attained the rank of Leading Firefighter. During my short career I have gained much experience and knowledge in Firefighting as well as becoming a specialist operator of the Control Unit (Mobile command unit) and the Heavy Rescue (Road accident rescue, industrial accident, etc.) Before I joined the MFB I undertook a Diploma in Fire Technology (to assist my Fire Brigade Application) and worked for several years as a Fire Protection Design Draftsperson.

I fully support Victorian Fire Service reform and I firmly believe all Victorians would benefit in receiving a modernised Fire service. Amalgamating the two professional fire services, CFA and MFB, into a single organisation would result in a more coordinated and efficient Emergency service across Victoria. It would allow experience, the best equipment and the best practises from both organisations to be shared and utilised. It would allow far better resource allocation across Victoria and more timely responses to large scale incidents like bushfires and other disasters.

There have been concerns from some that splitting the CFA will have a negative effect on volunteers and the greater Victorian community. Some believe that if these reforms pass, Volunteers will leave en masse and our state won't have the same response capability particularly regarding 'surge capacity.' I personally have greater faith in our Volunteers and believe we will continue working together harmoniously and that the Volunteers will remain serving their communities as they have before. As for a reduction in 'Surge Capacity' I am yet to hear a single valid argument to how this may be adversely affected.

These Fire Service Reforms will hopefully put end to an ugly, drawn out industrial dispute which has been demoralising for Professional and Volunteer Firefighters alike and their families. I have been in the MFB for almost 6 years and sadly the overwhelming majority of those years have been in dispute. I am seeing firsthand the negative effect this is having on Firefighters and their families.

With this in mind I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed

Fire service reform. Please call if you would like to discuss anything further.
Kind Regards,

Leading Firefighter
Ian Litterbach
Nunawading Fire Station
[REDACTED]

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