



don gibbs [REDACTED]  
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc "GIBBS, Donald"  
[REDACTED]  
bcc  
Subject Firefighters Reform Submission

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am a Station Officer with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade . I have been a professional firefighter for 32 years. I have worked shift work as well as in our Training Department training recruit firefighters. I have also received a Chief Officer's Commendation.

I live in Wantirna ( CFA area ) and work at FS 28, Vermont South Fire Station, MFB.

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

As the metropolitan area of Melbourne has expanded in the last 50 years, there has not been a full expansion of the response of the fire services to include 7 paid firefighters to respond in the CFA area.

I believe that this is a safety issue.

In the current arrangement of the CFA, if a paid CFA appliance is not available, be it busy at a call or not in commission, then the public must rely on volunteers to respond who would be delayed due to work commitments.

Although with the introduction of mandatory installation of smoke detectors, modern furnishings in houses and work premises will aid in the rapid spread of a fire.

With paid firefighters, we all know that we have all the relevant qualifications to enter a premise and attack a fire.

Not all CFA volunteers are suitably qualified in all areas of firefighting and therefore pose a risk to their safety.

I experienced the potential failure of the current system when there was a fire call to house adjacent to mine.

The CFA response was to send their appliances to this call, with the MFB fire station, Vermont South, being the last to be responded.

The arrival in order was Boronia (paid), Boronia volunteers, Scoresby volunteers and then Vermont South MFB.

The distance from the 2 nearest stations, Boronia CFA and Vermont South MFB, is the same with the potential for the MFB station to arrive first.

With the expanding of built up areas, a response of 7 paid professional firefighters is essential to these areas be it CFA or MFB paid firefighters.

CFA volunteers are essential to the protection of rural areas of Victoria.

By creating one professional fire service, this will enhance the protection of the community in the required areas. Training of both paid services will be streamlined resulting in cost saving the knowledge that we all being trained to the same standard.

I personally believe this to be the way forward to give the community of Melbourne, and the

expanding metropolitan areas, the delivery of a professional fire service that the public expects.

Your Sincerely,  
Station Officer Don Gibbs  
FS 28 Vermont South

