



"CALLAGHAN, Jacob"

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS
(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 Firefighter Jacob Callaghan and I have been a professional MFB firefighter for 2 years. I am currently based at Croydon fire station.

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

I personally live in the Bayswater area, which is serviced by both Volunteer and Professional brigades, there are areas that receive different responses to fire, EMR and rescue emergencies, depending on which agency is responded and what boundaries they fall into. This is a highly populated and built area of Melbourne.

As the urban sprawl has crept to the outer eastern suburbs, nothing has altered in 60 years to give the same level of emergency fire and rescue response to everyone in my area.

I've seen firsthand what happens when there is a delayed or slow response to fire calls, from a number of different fire stations. This can result in a higher degree of personal risk to the occupants, community and bystanders, as well as higher property and environmental damage.

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 areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

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

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, 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 your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand 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.

Yours sincerely,

Firefighter Jacob Callaghan

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