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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS'
PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE
SERVICES LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

1 attachment



Submission.docx

Dear Chair,

Whilst I am happy for my submission to be made public, **I request that my name and contact details remain confidential.**

Regards

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Leading Firefighter [REDACTED] of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I have been with the MFB for 7 years and have achieved various qualifications including Command and Control, Breathing Apparatus, Emergency Medical Response, Shipboard Firefighting and Heavy Rescue. In my time at the MFB I have received A Chiefs Commendation for a Gas explosion at Mill Park and an Ambulance Victoria award for an EMR event in which the patient was saved. I have also received an award from Life Saving Victoria for assist in the survival of a patient whilst off duty at the local pool.

I am currently stationed in the CDB and live at Armstrong Creek in Geelong. The nearest fire stations to me are both fully volunteer stations being Connewarre and Grovedale. The nearest Integrated station is Belmont.

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

I think that every Victorian living in the Urban (and rural) areas of the state deserve a guaranteed Fire Service response. Now with our ever growing population it is just not reasonable or fair on the community for that response to be left with volunteers. They do a great job, but that response is not guaranteed nor are the qualifications of those responding. As a man with a young family I want to know for sure that the appropriate number of firefighters is coming but they also have the skills to rescue my family. I do not think that this is unreasonable.

As a Metropolitan Firefighter I feel lucky that when I am responding to an emergency that I know that there is another appliance on its way to back me up. It is peace of mind that all firefighters deserve. The knowledge that if something goes wrong, there will be someone to help me. This is a peace of mind that my brothers and sisters on the urban fringe deserve also. 7 on the fireground is just not a fad. It ensures us the best possible chance to go home to our families after our shifts, just like you get to do.

The changes to the services do not change the role of the volunteer one bit. If they think they do, they are in it for the wrong reason. We should be providing the community with the best possible fire service we can. They will still turn out, there will still be the surge capacity we hear of for large scale fires.

This whole saga has dragged on too long. I have been abused in the street while at incident. That is not right. All I want to do is my job and to go home safe. Having to dispel mistruths that are reported in papers to friends and families, something that I think heads of both the CFA and MFB should have done. The stress is causes both at work and at home every time you see something on the news or in the papers that you know is wrong is something that no employee in any industry should have to put up with. I am held to account for what I do, politicians and journalist should be the same.

Yours sincerely,

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