

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Scott Ware [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 July 2017 5:25 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (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 Scott Ware and I am a Level 2 Fire Fighter in the CFA stationed at Geelong City Fire Station. I have always wanted to be a professional fire fighter and I'm proud to be able to say I have been doing this for the last year and a half. I live and work in the Geelong area and I get a great sense of purpose when I turn up to work every day to assist the community. I was previously a volunteer at the Warrong Fire Brigade near Warrnambool while I was living at home.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services to make sure our fire service is modernised as the urban landscape of our state changes. We need a guaranteed minimum of 7 fire fighters dispatched within 8 minutes to allow for safe operations on the fire ground. If we were to enter a burning building for a rescue or a fire fight and something unforeseen was to happen it would be imperative for our safety that we have 7 on the fire ground to deal with the situation. At the moment in some areas of the state this is not guaranteed and it is putting the public and fire fighters safety at risk.

The proposed reform areas around the integrated station are now heavily urbanised with large amounts of people and increased industry. I believe the reform will have no effect on Volunteers and will not impact surge capacity at all. I believe that creating one fire service can only be a good thing for the future of Victoria.

In the short time I have been in the job the EBA disputation has had a massive negative effect on the moral of the station. The constant media scrutiny of something that will be great for Victoria is starting to wear thin and members of the public are seeing career staff as the enemy of volunteers. This couldn't be further from the truth. We are here purely to serve the community on their worst day and we want to do this in a safe and effecting manner so when our shifts are over we are able to go home safe to our families like everyone else. I believe the best way for us to work in a safe environment is for a reform of the fire services.

Kind Regards,



Scott Ware
Firefighter

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 [REDACTED]



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