

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

**1.** I am a Qualified Fire Fighter for the CFA, I have been employed by the CFA for 3.5 years. I am qualified in all appliances at the station at I work which including specialist appliances heavy HAZMAT including the CBR component; I am qualified in the Aerial appliance (Teleboom) and the Personal Equipment Support Vehicle. I hold a Certificate 4 in Training and Assessing.

**2.** I live in Clifton Springs and work in Corio.

**3.** I was also volunteer in my community where I grew up in Bass, for approximately 5 years in 1997.

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

In Corio and surrounding areas the risk of the places we respond to is quite high, we have four Major Hazard facilities: Viva Refinery, Geelong Terminals, Heals Road Gas Plant (ELGAS), Lyondel Bassel. A large amount of our jobs are to support into Lara's area, growth and risk in Lara's area has grown significantly in recent times and the Volunteer brigade is just not able to cope and this was prevalent in the latest Service Delivery Standard compliance numbers being only 29%. When you think of the types of facilities they are responding too such as ChemRing, 3 Prisons and Avalon Airport, successfully turning out only 29% of the time is well below what would be considered safe for the community.

If I am working at a smaller station then what I am here at Corio, which has happened during my time in the CFA, for me personally it is important to have guaranteed backup when attending structure fires or long duration jobs.

Whilst working at Ocean Grove Fire Station we would attend jobs in surrounding areas, such as Queenscliff, which we do constantly due to the growth of the Bellarine in recent times, with 4 on a truck. Volunteer response would be low to nothing sometimes.

Being that the role of a volunteer is simply that, a "volunteer" role, they have other commitments in their lives and cannot always respond. So a guaranteed two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes to these areas in the new fire service reform, so my safety as a BA operator and the community's safety will ultimately be increased incredibly.

The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades etc.

Yours sincerely,  
Stacey Greenwood

