

Dear Inquiry Committee,

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

- My name is Daniel SMITH, a Fire fighter of 3 years' experience with the MFB.
- I live In Diamond Creek and have worked at Epping, Preston and Heidelberg Stations.
- I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

There are times when our job can have its inherit risks, sometimes unavoidable but most often can be mitigated, whether that be through Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP's), Training or Experience.

In this case legislation can be a mitigating factor to dangers I will face in my daily work life. This is not only extremely important to me personally with a young family but also for my colleagues and the community.

Being that I am in the Metropolitan fire district, I will receive at least one other primary fire appliance to a Fire Call, that means that as I approach a fire I can mentally commit myself whole heartedly knowing that backup is right behind me in case it's needed.

As the bordering stands this currently isn't the case for "Country" areas, to which I have personally responded into during a nine month term stationed at Epping.

With operational staff under one banner and covering these outer metropolitan areas the people that live there will be guaranteed 2 fire appliances with minimum 7 fire fighters (2 teams of 2 wearing breathing apparatus, 2 pump operators and 1 incident controller) they will receive the fire coverage that they deserve and the volunteer response will not be altered, they will still be responded which is also great for us should we need additional support.

That volunteer support will also still remain with operational fire fighters employed by FRV in Training and management roles but continuing those roles through an arrangement with CFA.

The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response, that means where I live (Diamond Creek) will not change. In those stations that will change the CFA will

continue to work alongside, co-located with FRV in a similar arrangement that the MFB currently has with Ambulance Victoria.

As I stated at the beginning TTP's can have a mitigating factor in risk management on the fire ground, as it stands now CFA and MFB employ separate TTP's and work with different equipment and appliances meaning that the communities protection varies dependant on their residence.

Bringing the 2 professional fire services under one banner will eventually standardize everything with the exception of speciality equipment and can help to ensure a better level of training for all professional fire fighters.

In my career with the MFB I have known only dispute, my first day on shift I could see the toll that had taken mentally on the fire fighters I was going to be working with and now I know it for myself the constant barrage of hate we receive from certain media outlets, members of parliament and volunteer associations.

Volunteers do this job for the same reasons that we do, to help people and provide protection to the community and with this new reform it will not only be safer for the community but we will all be covered by presumptive rights legislation which is a great thing for all of us in particular the volunteers that trained at the toxic facility at Fiskville.

Lastly the CFA will receive a massive boost of 100 million dollars to assist with this change for retention, recruitment and station upgrades.

This legislation passing is a positive result for all Victorians

Yours sincerely,

Full Name: Fire Fighter Daniel SMITH

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