

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Tim Cochrane, I have served within the Country Fire Authority for 10 years, 3 as a volunteer and the last 7 as a career fire-fighter where I now hold the position of Leading Fire-fighter. In this time I have been awarded the chief officers commendation for actions displayed on Black Saturday & attended many incidents which I believe give me a balanced and well educated view of our current fire service.

I currently live in Warrandyte & work at; Hallam, one of the state's busiest fire stations. I believe that my unbiased character & privilege of serving in both volunteer & career ranks gives me an educated and overall appreciation regarding what is best for the future of Victoria's fire service.

I want to stress that I pride myself on only providing unbiased and educated comments from an educated viewpoint to the best of my ability.

During my time with CFA I have attended over 3,000 emergency calls for assistance. During this time I have seen CFA members excel in their duties, however, unfortunately in this time I have seen many areas in which we as an organisation can improve dramatically, without extra cost or undue stress on members. One of which is deploying sufficient members to the fire ground.

I think by now everyone can agree that a minimum of 7 fire-fighters deployed to the fire ground is world best practice. In my time at Hallam I have been lucky enough to see the benefits of this, with Dandenong fire station providing career guaranteed support to the west of our fire district. However, if I am dispatched to a house fire in Hampton Park, the southern side of our fire district, we receive no guaranteed response or "back up".

This often results in other crew members and I arriving on scene '3 up' to fully involved house fires or other major incidents. This practice is not safe and is a risk that could have completely been avoided as Cranbourne staff could have been initially responded at the same time. However, they are currently not responded until the system triggers a 'fail to respond' from Hampton park. (Which occurs after 4 minutes)

I am in no way detracting from the volunteers work or commitment, however in this busy urban area which receives 600+ fire calls a year alone, 'fail to responds' from Hampton Park is occurring a staggering 82% of the time.

I don't just believe, I know, that fire service reform is desperately needed in Victoria and can only lead to a better serviced community.

I think Victoria's volunteers do a fantastic job, I understand issues they face as I was once and still am an active supporter. However, I welcome the proposed changes and look forward to moving forward in what has the ability to be a truly world class fire service.

Tim Cochrane
Hallam Fire Station
7003995

- • The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc
- • Why it is better to have all career staff being employed by one fire service
- • The damage the disputation in the workplace has had on your workplace and any additional strain that has had on you and your family.
- • 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

5. Below are examples from my experiences which demonstrates the failures of the current structure:

6. I attach the following documents:

Yours sincerely,

Full Name:

Contact details (postal address and/or mobile