

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Darren Mathisen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 5:13 PM
To: LCSC
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

Hi my name is Darren Mathisen

I have been with the CFA for 5 years and I am currently a Leading Firefighter at the Geelong City fire brigade. As I live and work in the Geelong area, I'm proud that I can help members of my community when they need it.

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

- I believe it's important for the community and my own safety that a guaranteed 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes. The reason for this is that due to the dynamic situation of structure fires. If my work mates and I were to go into a burning structure to perform a rescue and or fight the fire and something unforeseen happened, I know that there would be a sufficient amount of firefighters there to control the situation. This currently does not happen in some of the areas that we support into and is dangerous to us and the public.
- The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas, which are highly urbanised, including large populations and industrial areas. I fully believe that the reform will have zero effect on Volunteer stations and will not impact surge capacity in any way. Unlike what is being said in the media/social media.
- In the 5 years that I have been in the job, the EBA disputation has been a constant distraction. I've seen firsthand the damage to staff morale and the distraction that it has caused in the workplace. As a result of the media attention and the politicising of this reform and our EBA, members of our brigade have been verbally harassed in the community while in uniform. Since the implementation of the new laws by the federal government, I believe the only way to resolve this issue is to reform the fire services.

Thanks for your time

Yours sincerely

LFF Darren Mathisen

Geelong City F.S



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