

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

My name is Brett Wilson. I am a Station Officer with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and have been a full-time fire-fighter for 18 years. I am currently stationed at Eastern Hill Fire Station on C Platoon and have worked at this station for the last two years. Prior to this, I have worked at Glen Waverley, Clayton and stints at Croydon and Ringwood, all of which share mutual aid with both Volunteer and Integrated CFA stations.

I am in full support of the proposed fire services reforms.

I count myself lucky that my family and I live within the Metropolitan Fire District and are covered by 24 hour fire coverage, with a response rate of 7.7 minutes. I am also relieved that the services that my local fire brigade offer, also include medical response to category 0 calls, if ever my family should need it. What I don't agree with is that my friends and family who live outside the MFD aren't provided with the same level of service that should exist in large urban growth areas. I am amazed that as Melbourne's urban sprawl has spread out and that Victoria's regional centres have expanded that there hasn't been any consideration of expanding the fire boundaries to reflect this. It is paramount that in an urban setting fire services are able to respond in an expedient fashion, when time does count in regards to house fires, persons trapped in vehicles and cardiac arrests. I have recently moved into the MFD this year and was previously covered by a Volunteer station and I can tell you now, that I am very relieved that there will always be a fire service attend my home within eight minutes with seven fire-fighter's if we have a fire.

The reforms are a positive move for all Victorians, providing a very much needed improvement to response times in areas where they have been unreliable. I have seen firsthand working at fire stations that share mutual aid with CFA volunteer stations where we have responded into their maintenance areas and have arrived on scene sometimes minutes before they have arrived.. These delays can be time critical to patients who need first responders there as soon as possible. There is also no way to tell whether arriving volunteer crews, have the necessary training to wear Breathing Apparatus etc., that very well may be required as a priority to enter a burning building or be a relief/rescue crew for crews already committed inside. I have full respect for people who volunteer their time to provide a community service and they do a great job, however as communities and infrastructure increases so should permanent fire services, to give everyone a guarantee of response and protection.

During time stationed at Clayton and Glen Waverley I have responded with Boronia and Springvale CFA Integrated stations. We have shared a great working relationship both on and off the fire ground and I firmly believe the Integrated model which will hopefully be formed with the MFB to become Fire Rescue Victoria will be a positive move forward to give built up urban areas the service it needs which will save lives.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Wilson