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Mobile:**Secretary:** Terry King**Phone AH:**
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Assistant Clerk Committees
 Department of the Legislative Council
 Fire Services Bill Select Committee
 Parliament House, Spring Street
 EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

5th July 2017

Dear Members;

This Council of V.F.B.V. represents the 42 Volunteer Brigades that comprise District 10 of the Country Fire Authority. We write to express our deep concern regarding the proposed Fire Services Reform Legislation and Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation.

We submit that

There is a legal requirement that consultation take place in respect of any changes that effect Volunteers; To date, there would not appear to have been any consultation between Government, C.F.A. or Volunteers. The lack of consultation reveals a distinct shortage of detail and planning. This clearly needs to happen before any reforms can be contemplated or implemented.

The proposed Presumptive Rights Compensation Bill clearly discriminates against Volunteers. Why does a Volunteer, who may have attended the same fire as a Permanent Firefighter, have to prove his case before a Panel when the Permanent does not?

There have been a number of enquiries into Fire Services in Victoria over the last few years, none of which have recommended the combining of M.F.B. and C.F.A. In fact they have been very supportive of maintaining the current Integrated Model.

C.F.A will be unable to employ its own staff. All Operations Managers and Operations Officers together with Training Instructors will come from the ranks of F.R.V. and seconded to C.F.A. who will lose all control over its future management structure.

No real consideration of how integrated stations will operate (with or without volunteers), both ways – particularly in regional stations, they have no quick support except from CFA volunteers.

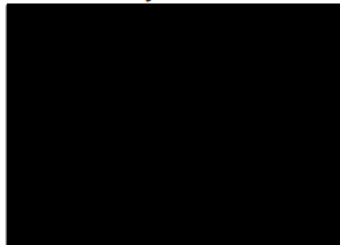
What impact will these reforms have on other Volunteer Organisations such as the S.E.S. and Coast Guard where the services they provide overlap with F.R.V.

There are serious concerns surrounding funding for the proposed reforms that are ongoing into the future. Costs will increase, what impact will this have on future C.F.A. budgets, will F.R.V. be the recipients of the lion's share.

There are serious concerns regarding the impact on Surge Capacity in the event of another major/campaign fire or incidents such as flooding.

Political and Industrial interference is not the correct motivation for reform. It does not remove the E.B.A. issues from the C.F.A. it only moves it to a different venue.

Yours Sincerely



Terry King
 Secretary
 V.F.B.V. District 10 Council