

The Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

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

Dear Secretary,

I am writing in support of the above Bill.

My name is [REDACTED] I am a Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. My current Rank and Position is [REDACTED] Officer at South Melbourne Fire Station (FS 38) and I am also qualified in High Angle Rescue.

Through my career I have worked in both high density urban environments like the CBD, more medium density residential areas like Burwood, and outer suburbs like Croydon.

I currently live in the Pakenham area, a growing urban area with a current population of approx. 35000 (60000 in surrounding areas) with population growth expected to double in the next 20 years. It also has major growth in the industrial areas to the south and east, including construction of components of the Level Crossing Removal project, and the development of the High Capacity Metro Trains maintenance facility in Pakenham East. This area is currently covered under the CFA integrated model.

I am concerned, with the increasing urban density in the area, growth of industry and major infrastructure, that the current service delivery model does not have the ability to move sufficiently and effectively with urban growth.

This leaves me concerned for the safety of my family and other residents.

It is my belief that the proposed modernisation of the Fire Services will resolve these issues. This Bill will assist both FRV and CFA in refocusing on both the Urban and Rural environment respectively, while still working in collaboration for the benefit of all Victorians.

This Bill also includes Presumptive Rights legislation, that guarantees support for Firefighters who get certain kinds of cancer due their exposure to products of combustion/chemicals during their time with the Fire Service. I believe this is a very important part of the legislation that is very well placed in the Bill amendment which will become the Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958. That Presumptive Rights legislation is integral to the task of firefighting safety and protection, is unarguable, and I can think of no better place for this legislation than in the above Bill.

The discussion about the future of Victoria's Fire Services has been ongoing for almost 4 years. With the constant politicising of the issue, there has been tremendous strain placed on Firefighter's whose only wish is to serve their community in the most efficient way without our safety unduly compromised. The modernisation of the Fire Service through this Bill provides methods of monitoring and adjusting the fire service delivery model to best provide fire and emergency service response to the people of Victoria and provide the safety protections for its professional Firefighters'.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]