

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 9:08 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017 - CONFIDENTIAL Submission

Dear Assistant Clerks Committees,

I write in reference to the INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017, and wish to make a **Confidential** submission for consideration by the Select Committee.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am employed by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I am in my 28th year of service and currently hold the rank of Station Officer. My current work location is in the Community Resilience Department, based at the Burnley Complex, but I have been in the operational area (fire station) for nearly all of those 28 years.

I live with my wife and family in [REDACTED], and have done since 2002.

I enjoy my career and all that it entails. Within that nearly 28 year period, I have worked in and around locations that commonly respond with various CFA stations and brigades. It is my belief that since I joined the brigade in 1990 until current day, the urban sprawl has been significant but the fire protection in the form of resourcing and placement, has not kept pace with that sprawl. Whilst there has been some moves to address that situation, there is still much to be done.

I live in a municipality of around 180,000 residents. Some of that City (Monash) borders areas that until recent years, have had fire cover existing of Volunteer only, Career Staff as well as a combination of both. On the whole, the working relationship between the agencies and brigades has been positive and collaborative. However, the move towards a more permanent, professional and available source of fire cover has been for the better, but still to be progressed further, for the safety of both the community and Firefighters themselves, both Volunteer and Professional.

I see the proposed reform as a classic win/win for all concerned and affected.

From the point of view of an Officer in Charge at a Fire or incident, the imperative of ensuring there are seven Professional Firefighters despatched to the 'fireground' at each fire or incident means that as the Officer in Charge, I can make sound decisions on resources and strategy within the overall context of the management of the incident itself. This same assurance also gives confidence to all Firefighters, both career and Volunteer, that their safety can be better assured, as well as that of the community.

I am heartened by the pledged government support for the CFA and the Volunteers therein, proposed in the reform. In my view, it is important that the proposed new CFA form is both supported and resourced appropriately. It is also appropriate that they be able to continue in their Volunteer capacity in order to represent their respective communities, supported by career Firefighters in a reformed 'Victorian Fire and Rescue'. It does however make perfect sense to have separate entities for Career and Volunteer Firefighters.

From an administration stand point, the inferred reduction in duplication across the two organisations that currently exist, would no doubt be significantly reduced. In time, this saving to the state would help offset any shortfall that may result in the funding of the proposed reform and financial impacts encountered.

There is much more to discuss in this space, but I will not take up more of your time.

I would be happy to elaborate further if required.

Thanks for your time.



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