

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** STREETER, James [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2017 10:08 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is James Streeter. I am a Leading Firefighter employed with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for the past six years. Within my role I am a qualified Ultra Large Pump Operator, and additionally (soon to be - August) a qualified Ladder Platform Operator.

I live in Collingwood and work at Eastern Hill Fire Station in East Melbourne.

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

- It is of vital importance that we have a guaranteed (minimum) 2 appliance turnout, with at least 7 firefighters to an incident to ensure the ongoing safety of both myself and my fellow firefighters. Without this stipulation you could potentially have a dangerous situation in which a firefighter has to decide upon ensuring their own safety by not entering a burning building alone and thereby leaving someone inside or endangering their own life in order to serve the community.
- It is only common sense that as the population of Victoria increases and the urban sprawl of Melbourne increases that the level of service provided by the relevant fire authority should alter and increase accordingly. While everyone has to pay the fire services levy there is a gross level of inequality of the level of cover provided based upon what suburb you live and whether that has historically been more of a rural area but is now highly urbanised.
- It is my firm belief this reform will have absolutely no effect upon the ability of Volunteer Firefighters to continue to provide the vital and exemplary cover in Victoria's rural areas.
- Consolidating Victoria's two professional fire brigades into one service is long overdue. We currently have a situation where two separate services turn out together with different equipment, different levels of training and different operational guidelines. Providing a service with standardised levels of service delivery can only ultimately provide the community with a better more professional fire service, and also, in the long run, save money.

Additionally, I want to convey to the Committee the emotional toll this ongoing dispute has had on both my colleagues and me. What began as an EBA negotiation has turned into a public, politically-driven agenda with little regard for the major issue at hand – public safety. When making your recommendations and vote, please make this your deciding factor.

Thank you for considering the points raised in this submission based on my experience as a Leading Firefighter.

Yours Sincerely,

Leading Firefighter James Streeter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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