

Kirra Vanzetti

From: john topic [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 4:47 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

FIRE SERVICES BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to you in **full support** of the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017. I believe that this needs to be implemented as soon as possible as it is long overdue!

My name is John Topic, I am a Leading Firefighter in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, stationed at Sunshine fire station and have been doing so for the past 12 years.

I am in full support of fire service reform for the following reasons;

- Presumptive legislation for firefighters is extremely important. It provides my family and I some comfort knowing that if one day I am diagnosed with cancer, that is related to firefighting, we will be taken care of.
- The metropolitan fire district boundaries have not been altered for 60 years and need to be assessed on a regular basis to keep up with urban growth. This is something that has been proposed in this Bill, there will be an independent panel that assesses each town/suburb on a regular basis to ascertain whether there is adequate fire protection coverage dependant on population growth, urban development and the volume of calls.
- A better service to anyone living in an urban area as there will be a guarantee of a minimum of 7 professional firefighters on 2 trucks on the fireground within 8 minutes of the call taken. This is very important as it provides safety for all firefighters and a much better service to the public.
- Less pressure on volunteers to turn out in urban areas. As the urban sprawl is always expanding, call rates are increasing and therefore putting more pressure on volunteers and their families.

- To see an end of the ongoing industrial dispute that has been ongoing for almost 4 years! It has taken a huge toll on all firefighters, morale is low and it needs to end.

If you would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

John Topic

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