

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

**I am**

- Firefighter Asher Francis Donald Johanson-Neil, B shift, Boronia F/S
- I live in Mount Evelyn, and work in Boronia at Boronia Fire station
- Country Fire Authority.
- Length of service, 2 Years, 22 March 2015 – Current
- Qualifications include:

COURSE IN FIRE RESCUE EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE FIRST RESPONDER
ENDORSE DRIVE & OPERATE HEAVY SCANIA 2009
ENDORSE DRIVE & OPERATE TANKER 3.4C
ENDORSE MSA SIRIUS GAS DETECTOR
WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTER
WILDFIRE-LOW STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTER
WILDFIRE STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTER
STRUCTURE - WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTER

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

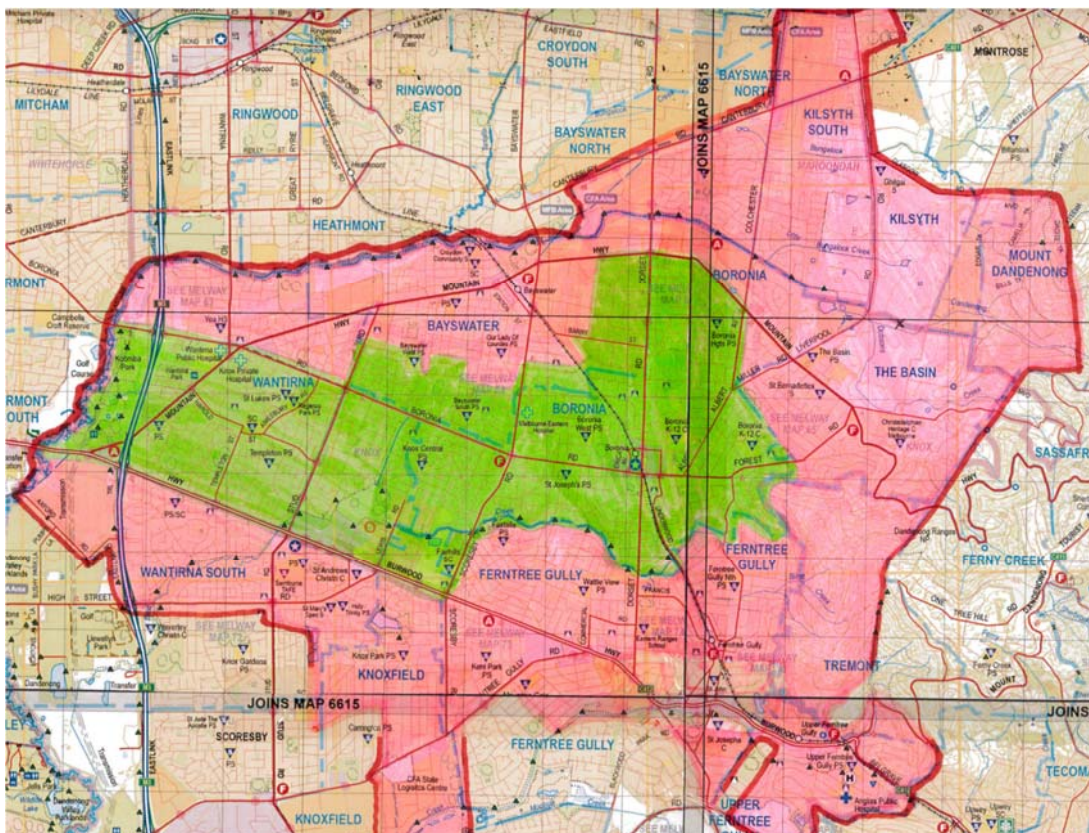
- As a career/paid/professional firefighter at Boronia fire station (FS), I respond with a 4 person crew. Currently when we arrive to an incident we know the skills of our crew but have no guarantee of backup or of the responding volunteer appliances personnel numbers, and/or qualifications.

This proves a major safety hazard to crews and the public, if no backup is guaranteed then this can cause more damage to lives and property because crews are stretched too thin.

The 7 paid staff (two trucks arriving within 8 minutes) on a fire ground will overcome that issue, and will not interfere with the volunteers valuable service but provide greater service delivery and safety to the public.

- Due to an increase in urban growth an enhanced response is imperative (2 trucks, 7 personnel, within 8 mins), FRV would deliver this to Metro Melbourne and regional cities.

Currently at Boronia we have a primary area which has had minimal change since 1958. As a staff station we can respond a lot further within 8 minutes and this is proven when responding to EMR calls within EMR response radius (See below pic green and pink area)



Currently our primary area highlighted in green and our EMR in pink, are both still influenced by surrounding volunteer brigades/captains. If a fire call occurs in Bayswater, often within 2 minutes of Boronia FS, Boronia staff may not be responded because it is classified as a support call and falls to the discretion of the Bayswater captain who responds in min 4 minutes. Even though Boronia will arrive first, due to historical boundaries and an out dated system the public will not receive the best/fastest service they deserve.

The pink boundary stretches out in some places up to 10 mins (Boronias Primary EMR boundary), but in other places is restricted because a volunteer brigade did not want Boronia in their area even though they do not provide EMR.

FRV would provide a new an updated service putting the public first, response times would be governed by an independent committee where emotions and pride would not play a part, the safety/service to the public and fire fighters should be paramount!

- FRV will work alongside CFA in some cases co-locating (i.e. Boronia FS, and integrated brigades), but will not change the service volunteers provide to their community's or effect the surge capacity during large campaign emergencies. I have worked and trained with volunteers and understand their passion in serving

their communities, if FRV provides a better response in metro areas they will be all for it.

FRV will create a greater response area are providing the enhanced capabilities with a minimum seven crew at emergencies, volunteers in the metro zones will still be able to turnout and when their surge capacity is called upon the public will know and deserve that the FRV are maintaining coverage of these areas.

- As a new Firefighter I look forward to a long term career in the CFA/FRV, similar to most other members I have spoken to (paid and volunteer) like me, joined with the satisfaction they were providing a service to the public and community in a time of need. FRV will continue and enhance that service to the Victorian public while also maintaining the CFA’s legacy and tradition. I believe that this is the way forward; the urban growth must be addressed with a new Fire service providing both safety to Firefighters and continuing the mission of ‘Protecting life and property’.

Yours sincerely,



**Asher Johanson-Neil Fire Fighter B Shift**

Boronia Fire Station – – 300 Boronia Road, Boronia 3155

[Redacted signature line]

Protecting lives and property



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)