

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Terry Evans,

I live in Mordialloc and work with the MFB at Port Melbourne fire station.

I am a Station Officer and have over 32 years service with the MFB.

I am writing this submission as I see that it is vitally important that the proposed reform to the fire services is supported.

In all my years of service, I have found no greater comfort, than the fact that I have, at the very least seven firefighters dispatched to an incident, with the use of equipment from two trucks as further backup.

Safety on the fire ground is paramount and having two trucks dispatched allays a lot of fears on how to address the situation faced. Employing all career firefighters into the one service, can only enhance the protection of both the firefighters and the community at large, with the faster turnouts of firefighters and equipment to attend to the incidents at hand.

Having the one fire service (FRV), would not affect the volunteer turnout or surge capacity as they will not only continue in their roles, but will be supported by operational firefighters ,Officers and Managers.

There will be no effect on the volunteer brigades or their bush fire response, as the reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations ,which are now very highly urbanised. As with every area that has high residential rates ,there comes higher risks, which need to be addressed urgently and the one fire service will greatly tackle this .

I see the reform will only benefit volunteers as it includes a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA and also includes funding for volunteer station upgrades.

Having the one service will hugely aid the standardisation of career training ,equipment ,specialist response and response standards, through the combination of best practices in all areas ,of both the MFB and CFA.

This long disputation has had a significant effect on my moral and wellbeing, as I feel career firefighters have been portrayed as destroying the jobs ,lives and careers of the volunteers. This sadly has rolled into my personal life, where not only myself but my family are continually having to defend and explain things, after being asked , `What are you doing to the volunteers?`

I can only hope this will be resolved as quickly as possible ,for the betterment of all.

Yours sincerely

Terry Evans

