

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2017 10:14 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

mr Bryce Hotchin  
 [REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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My name is Bryce Hotchin. I'm a seven year career firefighter with the CFA. Throughout my time in CFA I have worked in several locations around the state. Whilst these locations provide many different challenges they share one thing in common, an out-dated fire service.

It's not without a heavy heart that I request the formation of the FRV. My family has a long history with the CFA. My father was a long term volunteer before joining as a professional Firefighter and recently retired a 30 year professional. However it is time for a more modern approach to community protection.

I SUPPORT Fire service reform for these reasons:

- The Fire service boundaries are old and out dated.
- Volunteers do a great job but can't be relied upon.
- I could recall several incidents throughout my career where the volunteer system has let me down. And had I been working for MFB and had guaranteed back up not been put into such dangerous situations.
- One of which was a house fire in Melton where there was a person reported missing and only three on duty staff members turned out and where on scene by ourselves for 20min. on this job I entered a burning building by myself to start a search, we had neighbours without any training holding onto hose lines and this was right in the middle of Melton an area deemed to be country!
- I currently work at the Belmont Fire Station and have done for 2 years. In my time at Belmont I have attended 5 going house fires. 3 of these in Torquay a town located 19minutes away from Belmont. On each of these occasions I was the first person through the front door.
- One fire in Torquay where people were reported missing we had to drive 18km which took 19min. For me to be the first person through the front door to perform a primary search
- Under the new review towns like Torquay will be reviewed and possibly deemed an urban based environment and get the protection they need.
- Also this would put an end to a long and physical draining industrial dispute during in which I have been called a thug at my children's school, degrading publicly by the Herald Sun, insulted by Liberal Party

members in Parliament and undervalued and by CFA Volunteers who I dedicated my career to support. I could write another 10 dot points but will spare you the long read.

Please support the Reforms to protect the community and to help protect my fellow firefighters.

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File1:

File2:

File3: