

Prue Purdey

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 7:33 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 Peter Stafford
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Senior Leading Fire Fighter
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing as a 30 plus year professional fire fighter who has for 30 year been aghast that the MFD has not been expanded as the city grew. Approximately 1700 extra people call Melbourne home each week and I wonder if there has been a commensurate increase in fire services? I don't think so. In light of recent high rise infernos, surely we need to pass this legislation where more efficiency will hopefully lead to increase protection in all areas of fire service including building inspections and compliance as well as installed fire protection systems etc. I am also a Marine specialist who also works in the Physical Education area (Degree and Diploma) and has a particular interest in climate change where I have studied also and obtained a relevant undergraduate and Masters Degree. We in the fire services are looking at a bleak future where fire storms will be more intense and regular as predicted by BOM, CSIRO, NASA, WMO and the IPCC just to mention a few. As a firefighter, and in the face of such dismal predictions, why wouldn't we work to improve our fire service model and strength? Why wouldn't we listen and act on a Royal Commission's findings? Present day Melbournians are the victims of historical inaction. We need to rectify this prejudice where some in Melbournes suburbs (in the MFD) get a substantially better fire service that people outside Melbourne as evidenced by turn out times, provision of EMR etc. The Royal Commission after Black Saturday strongly recommended amalgamation of the fire services for improved communication and efficiencies and service, so we really should have combined services as in other states. The cost benefit of implementing the change to FRV would look very beneficial I imagine. Just thinking about Black Saturday as an example. If we had a more efficient and effective fire service, the electrical equipment that failed and started the Kilmore complex may have been detected as faulty earlier and fixed and or the fire nipped in the bud by more available numbers of trucks and ff's.

Secondly, I think it is also a 'no brainer' to support the provision of presumptive legislation. Such legislation is needed to support our firefighters now and in the future. The science is done, the people who protect us need to be treated fairly. Other countries and states are ahead of Victoria, which is very often progressive but not on this one!

All in all, firefighters that I work with are fairly demoralised over the misinformation and length of our disputations. An example of how bamboozled the general population is with these fire service issues, in conversation I ask people what is the CFA? No one gets the answer right. They certainly don't know of the 24/7 professionals in the CFA or the diverse make up of CFA organisation. Lets listen to the experts like the ones who wrote the RC into Black Saturday and pass this long overdue FRV legislation.

Thank you for the privilege of serving Victorians as an Emergency Services Worker and of being able to submit to this enquiry.

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File1:

File2:

File3: