

Prue Purdey

From: Greg Abramovitch [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 9:42 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to the Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Greg Abramovitch
Senior Station Officer
Ocean Grove Fire Station
Country Fire Authority

I am a Senior Station Officer with CFA. I have been a career firefighter for over 15 years. I am currently appointed to Ocean Grove Fire Station.

I was also a CFA volunteer for 17 years and life member of the Barwon Heads brigade. Prior to that I was an SES volunteer for seven years. I believe I understand the motivations of volunteers, and the integrated model very well.

I wish to make known my support for the Fire Service reforms put forward by the Andrew's Labour government.

Most of the effects of change will fall on the relatively small number of career firefighters who respond to the majority of Victoria's fires and incidents. Not the volunteers of CFA.

Unfortunately, the recent amendments to the Fair Work Act have made it virtually impossible for my colleagues and I to achieve an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with our employer, CFA. This impasse drags out the uncertainty and division affecting CFA's volunteers and staff.

I believe the only way forward is for the implementation of the Fire Service reform legislation. If this fails, the division will continue into another fire season, morale will continue to drop and it will be firefighters who pay the price.

Sadly there has been a lot of misinformation and outright lies circulated to further certain parties' political fortunes. I, for one, am utterly sick of having my industry used in this way. I am also suffering the effects of being continually vilified in certain media, merely for doing my job and being passionate about fire safety and response within my community.

I believe the reforms will put an end to this situation and give us all a clean start.

Greg Abramovitch
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