

Prue Purdey

From: Matthew Nicholson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 9:52 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

To the FIRE SERVICES BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017,

I am writing to you as a Professional Firefighter for the MFB and a resident of regional western Victoria. I was born and bred in remote Victoria (Rokewood), and as such I know the necessity of volunteers in services such as the CFA for the safety of the community. My family volunteered for the CFA to fulfil its role as active members of a community. On multiple occasions my family and I responded when needed to fulfil the needs of our neighbours and the great community. The reason that I am telling this story is that I know that volunteers of Victoria perform a tremendous job in their surge capacity and everyday response, and under the reform their role will not change. Based on my experience as an operational firefighter, I know that the state cannot operate without the volunteer capacity in the remote areas. This reform is NOT proposing to diminish volunteer capacity but rather enhance responses to ensure safety. The matter of safety is for all being the professional firefighters, volunteer fireifghters, other emergency services and the public. Firefighters, professional and/or volunteers, participate in this field due to a sense of community and it is necessary that the community comes first with a service that can deliver the best and safest response and in my professional opinion this through the proposed reform. These safety concerns are ever present in the increasing urbanisation of Victoria and this reform ensures that our fire services are able to adapt to the changing landscape.

As a proud member of the MFB, I and many others are willing to lose the rich history of our organisation for the betterment of Victorian Community, because for us community safety always comes first.

If you want to further discuss, please feel free to contact me directly to.

Regards,