

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 3:13 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 Troy Clunies-Ross
 [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing in support of the Fire Services Reform and Presumptive Legislation Bill currently being reviewed by parliamentary committee.

I am a full time fire fighter currently based at Sunbury CFA.

I strongly support the reforms being proposed as I work in an area that can no longer be classified as country Victoria. Sunbury is experiencing rapid growth in the town as well as in areas neighbouring Sunbury such as Diggers Rest and Gisborne.

These reforms will help provide this community and the Fire fighters who protect it with a better community safety and protection for fire fighters.

One of my biggest concerns working in Sunbury is fire fighter safety, we do not have a guaranteed back up plan when we are despatched to incidents. We currently rely solely upon volunteer response as our back up and unfortunately this is desperately inadequate when some ones life may depend on it.

My family and I deserve the right to know that If I am putting myself in harms way to protect the community that I work for that I am guaranteed to have a second staff truck despatched to the same call to protect me.

I want to know that a second staff truck is on route to the scene with a minimum of 3 fire fighters who are all BA qualified, who are all search and rescue qualified and who have turned out within 90 seconds of receiving a pager message. I don't currently have that safety measure in place! I am currently relying on the services of volunteers to protect me should I need help.

We all know how great the volunteers are for putting there hands up and wanting to help and be a part of protecting their community, and many of them commit huge amounts of time to be the best they can, however should I have to hope that my safety is not compromised by the availability and different training levels that may be available when I need them most.

No volunteer truck can guarantee a response to a call and no volunteer truck can guarantee the skills and training that a second staff truck can provide when turning out. My station deserves to have the best safety measures in place to protect its staff.

I have also spoken with many volunteers at this station who are fully supportive of the reforms and understand the need for changes. Sunbury volunteers know and understand the reforms are a good thing for the station and the community they help protect. Many of the volunteers at Sunbury have told me that the thought of leaving the brigade or not being available for surge capacity is rubbish, they are here for the community. We have spoken about what the changes will mean between the staff and volunteers and we all believe it will be down to individuals and the attitude they take as to whether the reform works or not.

I have been amazed at the amount of noise being made by brigades who are not part of the integrated model and the amount of hysteria they are creating around this reform. Many of the brigades making the most noise have never or very rarely work with staff yet they are apparently so greatly affected by these changes!

I believe the volunteers at the integrated stations have a greater understanding of the changes and should be consulted by the committee before any other brigades, especially brigades who do not work along side staff.

I will not enter into the presumptive legislation debate as I feel 99% of people are on board and know that this is a good thing for all involved.

So finally I hope you will support the reforms and help in making a huge change to our fire services and help protect the staff who commit to helping others in their time of need.

Thank you for your time.

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File1:

File2:

File3: