

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Paul Allan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 10:35 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: THE FIRE SERVICES REFORM BILL SELECT COMMITTEE

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND
 FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017**

I am a Leading Fire Fighter with the CFA.

I have been employed with the CFA for 15 years and prior to that was a volunteer at Mt Hotham Fire Brigade where I still volunteer.

I am qualified to operate many different appliances. (Over Snow Pumper, Over Snow quick response vehicle, Pumper, Tanker, Teleboom Aerial Appliance, Breathing apparatus truck, Salvage).

I also am a specialist response co-ordinator for my district. This requires me to organise crews for rapid impact assessment and what potential a fire flood etc could have on a community.

I have been awarded The National Emergency Medal for my actions on Black Saturday.

I currently live and work in The Frankston Community. I have been here now for 13 years.

I am a volunteer at Mt Hotham Fire Brigade and have been for 20 years now. Holding officer ranks all the way up to 1st Lieutenant.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

As a volunteer at Mt Hotham I believe along with many of my other Volunteer members around the Mt Hotham area that should FRV (Fire Recue Victoria) be voted for it will have no impact on my volunteer brigade.

As a professional fire fighter with the CFA I have attended many calls where only two of us have been on scene and no idea if any backup was coming. I will give some examples below.

- I have responded many times to house fire. On several occasions with only two of us staff members on the truck we have arrived and the house has had flames coming out of several windows. We were limited as to what we could do due to only two of us being on the truck. Volunteers did arrive but that was at least 10 minutes after we did. Had we had more people on with us initially parts of the home that burnt may have been saved.
- Another time we went to a major gas pipe rupture and once again arrived and only two of us on the truck. I had to set a plan in place and call for extra resources as there was a school, church and many residential houses in the area affected by gas. Had we had more resources on scene with us it would have been easier to close roads and inform panicked people more efficiently about the situation.
- Responded to a grass fire while I was doing impact assessment.(we only have a 4WD and have no fire fighting capabilities) We arrived and the size of the fire was no more than a large SUV in size. It was in a volunteer area which has since had staff placed there. The first arriving volunteer truck took approximately 10 minutes to arrive. Within that 10 minutes the fire had spread considerably to a few acres. It was too large for the amount of trucks that were on scene. In total it burnt out 40 hectares and took 35 trucks to put it out. Had staff been at the station the fire would have been contained to a very small area.
- As a volunteer at Mt Hotham I responded to a laundry fire at 2am. I was the only person that responded and was lucky that the residents had been able to extinguish the majority of the fire before my arrival. Turning up with one person on a truck is just not acceptable in this day and

age. Had the fire not been slowed by the residents the entire building would have been lost due to lack of response.

Thank you for taking time to read my submissions.

Regards

Paul Allan



Paul Allan Leading Fire Fighter

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