

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 9:15 AM
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 Sam Strang
 [REDACTED]

Captain
 Gisborne CFA
 [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

The Fire Services Bill 2017 presents great opportunity and potentially risk if the CFA is left to flounder at the expense of the development of the FRV. I appreciate the opportunity provided by the Inquiry to put forward my thoughts on this Bill.

I am seeking to understand the Government's commitment to ensure that the volunteer fire service in Victoria can provide a world-class community service that will grow to meet the expectations of the community. All Victorians deserve a world-class highly trained and well equipped fire service regardless of where they happen to live – Carlton, Broadmedows, Melton, Gisborne or Donald. The CFA needs to increase its capability to provide a similar level of emergency response to those areas not covered by the FRV with the exception of a 90 second response time.

CFA Budget

As a result of the Fire Services Statement and the restructure of the Fire Services in Victoria what will be the CFA budget for the forward estimates - excluding the one off \$100 million enabling fund?

The CFA must be afforded a strong and enduring budget that will provide the volunteer fire-fighters looking after the remainder of the Victorian population including those in the Macedon Ranges; the required training, equipment, vehicles and infrastructure so that the community's expectations can be met. Our communities should not be made to feel less important because we live in a less densely populated area.

The CFA budget needs to include strong and positive funding for training that will ensure a greater percentage of volunteer fire-fighters in towns similar to those around the Macedon Ranges are trained to a similar skill level to that of the FRV fire-fighters. Townships in the Macedon Ranges should be encouraged to have as many volunteer fire-fighters as possible trained to combat structure fires. Training issues alone formed a large part of the rationale for this reform - the need to have safe fire operations on the fire ground and I agree with that sentiment.

The CFA budget needs to contain a year on year planned and funded new and replacement vehicle replacement program. New firefighting appliances should be added to the fleet in a predictable and

recurring program to ensure that the CFA's firefighting appliances are modern and the CFA is adequately resourced.

Furthermore the CFA budget requires a positive funding stream for consumables, infrastructure replacement & enhancements and sufficient quantities of new equipment such as thermal imaging cameras and structural clothing & helmets for a larger pool of qualified volunteer fire-fighters.

We will continue to provide the best fire service we can within the constraints of being un-paid volunteers, but with a robust and enduring budget with access to suitable training and skills acquisitions this can only serve the rest of the Victorian population and Macedon Ranges communities better.

Yours Sincerely

Sam Strang

--

File1:

File2:

File3: