

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

1. I am:

Malcolm Mckenzie Bruce, an Operations Officer with the Country Fire Authority. I have been employed by the CFA for over 17 years and previously by Grampian Fire Brigade over in the UK (Scotland) for over 9 years.

Currently working in District 15 Headquarters (Ballarat) as an Operations Officer at Level 4 qualifications and have held the position of Operations Officer since 2009.

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

- Single agreement for all career firefighters
- Little or no duplication
- Allows CFA to concentrate on volunteers and core business, not industrial issues
- Allows volunteer representatives from VFVB to concentrate on better conditions and equipment for volunteer members, not industrial issues
- In reference to Government response to Fire Services Review tabled in March 2016, still very little implementation of recommendations (uniform, standard appliances, communications, etc.)
- Joined CFA back in January 2000 and continually told that CFA were years ahead of other emergency service organisations, but after being in for some time now realise they are at least 15-20 years behind the UK fire service
- Guaranteed response in FRV (Fire Rescue Victoria) areas
- Increased safety for Firefighters and public
- Increased public confidence in response within FRV areas
- Won't affect surge capacity
- Regional brigades still providing services to Regional Community
- Similar to effective models used elsewhere in Australia and around the world
- CFA retains support staff
- Increase in initial funding (\$100 million)
- Presumptive legislation in line with other Australian states
- Ever increasing population within Victoria which puts increased workload expectation of volunteers due to All hazards approach
- Stress at work impacting on family

Yours Sincerely

Malcolm M Bruce ([REDACTED])