

Prue Purdey

From: Wayne Hirth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 4:39 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fire Service Reforms

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Wayne Hirth, I am a Senior Station Officer with the Country Fire Authority stationed at Boronia Fire Station

I have been a firefighter/Fire Officer/Senior Station Officer of the CFA for the past 32 years, currently 26 years as an Officer.

I have numerous qualifications gained during my service and am the recipient of Life Member status of the CFA as well as being awarded the National Emergency Medal and the National Medal.

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

- It is important to have guaranteed backup - guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes, the majority of fire calls that I attend is in support of neighbouring volunteer brigades, these volunteer brigades within the City of Knox cannot guarantee a response from their members, these Brigades include Ferntree Gully, Upper Ferntree Gully, Scoresby, The Basin and Bayswater, a minimum of 7 firefighters on the fireground allows firefighting operations to be carried out in a safe manner.
- A faster response from staff (within 90 seconds) guarantees better community safety and protection.
- Employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity, the volunteers role does not change.
- That volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters (OO's OM's etc being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)
- That the reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response
- The 35 areas are now highly urbanised – high residential and other risks

The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc

- It would better to have all career staff being employed by one fire service, this allows the CFA to become solely a volunteer organisation.
- The damage the disputation in the workplace has had on your workplace has been that the relationships that have been built over a long period of time with volunteers are breaking down due to the involvement of volunteers dictating our EBA, our EBA should be between the employee and the employer and not volunteers having their two bob's worth.
- The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades etc

Regards



Wayne Hirth - Senior Station Officer
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 [REDACTED]

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