

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Joel Chalmers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 11:35 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Firefighters' Presumptive rights compensation and fire services reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Inquiry into the firefighters' presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017.

I am:

- Joel Chalmers
- Qualified Firefighter, employee number 28242.
- I am employed by the CFA.
- I have been a career firefighter for 4 years.
- I am qualified on such trucks
 - Tanker
 - Pumper
 - Breathing Apparatus Van
 - Teleboom(Aerial appliance)
 - Pumper/tanker

I live in Bittern(covered by volunteers) on the Mornington Peninsula and work at Frankston fire brigade.

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

- Firefighter safety by having a guarantee of 7 firefighters dispatched within 8 minutes.
- The CFA/MFB are there to provide a service to the community. Having career firefighter responding to more dispatches will improve response times and give the community better safety and protection.
- In my opinion having all career firefighters in one fire service will no affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity.
- Areas affected by the reform 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.

As a level 3 firefighter(3 years experience) I attended a car fire in Mt Eliza(Volunteer) area. I was working at Frankston and was responsible for driving the Teleboom with a Leading Firefighter as the Crew leader. We responded to the call with only two firefighters on the truck and relied on Mt Eliza volunteers turning out. We arrived on scene to find a stolen car on fire underneath a carport of a house that had been robbed. While my Leading did his Size Up(an appreciation of the job) I engaged the pump, put breathing apparatus on and started the fire fight. The Teleboom only carries 1600L of water. The branch I was operating flows 275L per minute. After being on scene for 5-7mins Mt Eliza Pumper turned up and had 3 crew on board with little experience. The stolen car had a ruptured fuel tank and the leaking fuel was on fire. I asked for Mt Eliza to supply foam thru another hose to extinguish the fuel fire. They took a longer then desired time to bowl out a hose engage the truck and supply foam. Having 7 career firefighters responded to this job would of made the fire safer for firefighters. The fire could of easily escalated and become a house and car fire with only two career firefighters on scene and 10mins before the volunteers turnout.

It is situations like this that I am asked to unnecessarily risk my safety because we rely on volunteer support when career firefighters are able to be responded.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind regards



Joel Chalmers FireFighter
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