

**Kirra Vanzetti**

---

**From:** Marcus McDowell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 June 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Marcus McDowell, I have been a Career Firefighter with CFA at Geelong City Fire Station for seven years. I am currently seconded to VEMTC as a Recruit Instructor. Prior to joining CFA as a Career Firefighter I was a Volunteer at Highton Urban Fire Brigade for nine years.

I currently hold the rank of Leading Firefighter, I am endorsed in operation of:

- Heavy Rescue
- Ladder platform
- High Angle Rope Rescue
- Ground Observing.

I am born and bred in the Geelong area. With my experience from both a career and volunteer aspect, I consider myself to have very good appreciation of how the CFA operates in my region from both career and volunteer perspectives.

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

- In order to make my workplace as safe as possible I want a guarantee that two trucks with a total of at least seven (competently trained) firefighters will be dispatched within eight minutes to every incident that I am called to. I can provide evidence (if required) of incidents that my safety has been compromised when I have supported volunteer brigades, due to lack of personnel and or lack of appropriately trained personnel attending those incidents.
- I believe the community deserves to know that the service provided by CFA varies throughout the state, and that the value of their fire service levy is not even across the state.
- I believe that the community and the majority of CFA volunteers have been misled by the media and political parties with hidden agendas.
- I want CFA volunteers and the community to understand, that support will be maintained with operational firefighters and volunteers, if the new model is introduced. I am confident that very little, if anything will change in the way we do business when Victorians call upon us in their times of need.
- My credibility as a Firefighter has been damaged due to the disputation in my workplace. It has created strain not only upon me but also upon my family. I was once proud to call myself a CFA Career Firefighter, but now I too often find myself defending the role I play in my occupation and duty as a Firefighter. I have been verbally abused in public by the members of the public that I am employed to help keep safe.

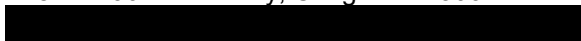
I would be happy to discuss any or all of my concerns in greater detail, and I can provide examples and proof if required.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus McDowell



**Marcus McDowell Recruit Course Instructor: Course 1/2017**  
Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre - Craigieburn  
284 – 290 Hume Hwy, Craigieburn 3064



This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.