




**Metropolitan Fire and
Emergency Services Board**
ABN 28 598 558 561

*Victorian Emergency
Management Training Centre*
284 – 290 Hume Highway
Craigieburn
Victoria Australia 3064

Friday 30th June 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,


www.mfb.vic.gov.au

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

My name is Anthony (Tony) Scully; I live at 28 Hopkins St, Aireys Inlet, Victoria.

I am a career Firefighter, and I have been employed by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade for over 32 years.

I am currently deployed to V.E.M.T.C. Craigieburn, as a Senior Station Officer, where I have the role as a department Co-ordinator.

As a Senior Station Officer, I have the responsibility of Coordinating the 'Structural Firefighting / C.F.B.T. Department.

Structural Firefighting is an inherently highly perilous aspect of Firefighting. Tragically, around the world many Firefighters deaths and serious injuries occur during Structural Firefighting.

The role of this department is to immerse M.F.B. operational career Firefighters in the world best practices in 'Structural Firefighting'.

I am making this submission in support of the Fire Service Reform.

This reform will be an absolute positive for the state of Victoria because:

- There will be an enhancement of Volunteer Services by offering a substantial package that will assist with further recruitment of volunteers. This package will also assist in their retention, by offering better conditions to volunteers, such as funding for volunteer station upgrades.
- The reform will mean that there will be continued support to Volunteers through Operational career Firefighters such as Operations Officers and Operations Managers employed by the proposed Fire Rescue Victoria.
- The reform will mean a broader coverage of career Firefighter Emergency Medical Responder programme. From my experience, I know that this programme has saved many lives.
- The slower the response to fires, the more damage and loss. More career Firefighters equates to faster response times, therefore less damage to properties and lives.



- Our fire service boundaries were established in the late 1800's; our population was much smaller, as was their expectation of 'service delivery'. Today, the population has very high expectations of service delivery, particularly from its emergency services. The reform will mean that more of the population of Victoria will have a quicker response from their fire service
- Given that all Victoria property owners pay the same fire service levy, eventually more communities in Victoria will have career firefighters, who will be able to respond to their communities' emergencies much more quickly.
- Currently, 'world's best' Structural Firefighting training is only extended to members of the M.F.B. The reform will bring about a standardisation of training throughout Victoria for career firefighters. As such, this high level training will be available to career firefighters, stationed in high population density rural settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to express some of my views in relation to this seminal reform to the State's Fire Services.

I would be pleased to speak to the committee directly.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Scully

Tony Scully | Senior Station Officer
Co-Ordinator, Structural Firefighting incl. CFBT | Operational Training
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