

Assistant Clerk Committees  
Department of the Legislative Council  
Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

30/06/2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My Name is [REDACTED], I am an [REDACTED] with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and have been employed with the MFB for 28 years. I hold the position [REDACTED]

I have attained the following qualifications;

- Graduate Diploma Organisational Leadership,
- Graduate Certificate Applied Management,
- Advance Diploma Public Safety
- Diploma of Fire Technology,
- Diploma Training and Education Systems,
- Graduate of the Institute of Fire Engineers

I hold memberships with the following institutions;

- Australian Institute of Company Directors
- International Association of Emergency Management
- International Association of Fire Engineers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs

In 2003 I was awarded the National Medal and MFB Long and Good Service Award and in 2009 the National Emergency Medal for significant and sustained service to others during the bushfires in Victoria 2009

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons and also request the Committee keeps this submission confidential.

The legislative framework enacted in 1958 that supports the MFB and CFA to deliver service to community is in need of reform to address contemporary risk that are now present 2017.

Since the 1950s the profile of the MFB and CFA has significantly changed. Areas in the CFA that abut the MFB boundary were once described as grasslands and paddocks are now heavily urbanised/ or industrialised commercial estates.

The risk profiles of these areas are similar to those found in the MFB but there is inconsistency in the service delivery that is provided by the CFA. The proposed reform involving the 35 integrated stations will address the inconsistencies in service delivery to those areas and provide a capability that will also deliver safe systems of work on the fire ground.

The proposed reform will not impact on surge capability as having the 35 integrated fire stations under the one umbrella will provide a greater surge capacity. Having career firefighters in these fire stations will not only facilitate a rapid response but will enable mobilisation of strike teams at short notice. Volunteer response will not be impacted, in fact, rapid mobilisation of strike teams involving career firefighters from the 35 integrated fire stations will allow more time to organise and deploy Volunteers during surge events.

The reform will also offer the benefit of standardization of Incident Control functionality in an urbanised setting. Urban Incident Controllers are continually exposed to risks associated with urbanisation, industrial/commercial estates, transport and critical infrastructure and develop risk mitigation strategies that are underpinned by skills, knowledge and attributes.

In closing I welcome the reform, it is a unique opportunity to reframe the risk setting and ensure the community is offered a contemporize fire service that will deliver a service that is effective and efficient. These sentiments are also echoed by my family and friends.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.