

**Inquiry into the Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire services Legislation
Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017**

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Jonathan Amos and I am a CFA Career Firefighter, based at Dandenong Fire Station. My rank is Qualified Fire Fighter with over 5 years' experience.

At Dandenong we respond to approximately 2500 calls per year and protect 47% of Melbourne's manufacturing industry.

I live in Phillip Island.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services in Victoria.

- 7 Professional Firefighters Dispatched to Emergency Incidents

Dispatching 2 appliances and 7 professional firefighter's guarantees safety of the crew and safety for the public. Responding specifically '7 professional firefighters' and not 7 volunteer firefighters is so that the Incident Controller knows that the whole crew are:

- Accredited Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus Operators
- Accredited Pump Operators
- Accredited Emergency Medical Response Operators
- Guaranteed to Respond

This gives the Incident Controller the ability to effectively run his or her fire ground operations efficiently and safely. This is obviously imperative at house fires with possible persons are reported missing or unaccounted for.

At minor incidents and fire calls, like a bin fire for example, the Incident Controller can cancel one of the oncoming appliances based on further information obtained.

We are asking for common sense and safety.

- Underlying policy rationale

To bring the fire services in Victoria into the modern era, where maintaining crew levels at an incident, guaranteeing levels of support to enable fire fighters to perform their task and protect the community, can only be a good thing.

We need to stop looking at what individuals will "lose" and look at what the community and fire fighters will gain, with an improved service model.

These reforms are the first real look at the fire service in Victoria in the last 60yrs. This is well beyond due.

- **Career Firefighting Pumpers to be fitted with Heavy Rescue Equipment**

Currently, our Heavy pumpers do not have the sufficient equipment to perform Road Accident Rescue Extrication nor do firefighters (unless you are stationed at 1 of the 3 CFA rescue stations) have the training to perform RAR Extrication safely.

The proposed reforms to the fire services will equip the Heavy Pumpers with the correct extrication equipment and provide the firefighters with the skills to perform RAR Extrication safely and efficiently to maximise the chances of survival of the patient.

The Heavy Rescues whether an FRV, CFA or SES appliance will not be cancelled and the crew that is on the Pumper can begin setting up a safe work area and begin the process of safely extricating the patient before the Rescue appliance arrives.

Put simply, this is the best outcome for the community.

Yours sincerely,

QFF Jonathan Amos

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