

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Elias Bieber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2017 11:16 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Parliamentary Select Committee - Submission in support of the fire services reform Bill

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Elias Bieber

Firefighter level 2
CFA Patterson River
2 years of service,

I live in Cranbourne West and work in Patterson Lakes.

I also was a volunteer in my community at Warrandyte CFA for 8 years.

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

- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'. I currently reside in Cranbourne and have done so for just over a year. In this short timeframe I have seen hundreds of houses getting built and that's just one year.
- These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas. This will ensure that the quickly expanding communities have a response that is safe and effective for all involved.

Last of all Below is example from my experiences which demonstrates the failures of the current structure:

- When the pager drops because someone in the community needs our help. As a volunteer I have experienced the gut wrenching feeling you get being the only one able to respond to station knowing I was unable to drive the truck. It's heart breaking having to tell the radio operators that your brigade is unable to respond due to lack of a driver and crew. This shouldn't ever happen but dose on multiple occasions across the state every week.

Yours sincerely,

Elias Bieber.



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