

Will Turner

Springvale CFA
Country Fire Authority

▶ Assistant Clerk Committees

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

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

I am Will Turner,

- Firefighter Lvl I
- Country Fire Authority
- 10 months service.
- Cert 3 in firefighting ops.

I live in Flinders and work in Springvale.

I support the proposed changes to the firefighter's presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017 for the following reasons.

- As a firefighter an important part of the role is working in a team and ensuring their safety. The amendments to the fire service will ensure that an adequate number of appropriately skilled, trained and competent crews will be dispatched to incidents. Currently this backup is not guaranteed to respond, and when they do there is no guarantee that they will be adequately skilled to assist at an incident. Having two trucks dispatched and guaranteeing seven professional firefighters on the fire ground ensures the safer working environment of fire crews and ensures a better service to the community.
- Volunteer turnout and surge capacity will not be affected; they will have the opportunity to continue to serve their community as they currently do, with the additional funding and the new Volunteer only focus of the CFA being of great benefit. The CFA will receive the same support from operations officers and operations managers that they currently do, albeit with a much more volunteer focused agenda.

- In my short time at Springvale, I have come to realize that Springvale and the surrounding area is no longer the “country” and as such deserves the same Urban response capacity that neighboring suburbs in the Metropolitan fire district receive. I have come to realize that it is expecting too much of volunteers to service the demands of such a busy urban area with the risks associated, such as the Moorabbin Airport, large industrial areas, major roadways and densely populated housing. It is also a lot to expect volunteers to devote the time needed to train and maintain skills, as well as turn out to jobs to the level required for a busy urban area such as Springvale.
- As a relatively new firefighter just getting to know the nuances of managing a unique emergency response framework such as the CFA is, it makes sense to me that an amalgamation of the MFB career staff and CFA career staff, allowing the CFA to once again be a one hundred percent volunteer organization, will make for a more efficient fire service, we currently operate side by side with MFB staff almost daily at Springvale and I think much would be gained from the reform both on the foreground and behind the scenes.
- Lastly I fully support the reform as it will bring an end to the uncertainty that is my career going forward. Currently there is a lot of conjecture as to the future of the fire service and an amalgamation of the MFB staff and CFA career staff will mean greater career opportunities and experiences that will make my workplace safer and more rewarding one for both myself and the wider community.

Will Turner
LVL1 Firefighter
CFA Springvale
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