

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 July 2017 4:03 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fire Services Reform

Categories: CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

: My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Qualified Firefighter of 5 years' service with the CFA.

: I live in Teesdale and work at Geelong City Fire Station. Although I have worked at numerous stations around the state, I have spent considerable time not only at Geelong but also Warrnambool and Point Cook.

: I have a large number of specialist skills and qualifications such as Road Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Confined Space Rescue and Aerial Appliance tickets to enable me to respond to a large and diverse array of emergencies.

: At Geelong City Fire Station we attend approximately 2500 calls for help per year. A large amount of these calls are supporting neighbouring brigades to try an attempt to get a safe number of Firefighters on the fire ground, due to the struggles of many volunteer stations to respond both during the day and at night time.

: I also spent 6 years as a CFA Volunteer at Teesdale Fire Brigade.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons,

: As a firefighter, it is important to have guaranteed backup - guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes. This was a constant issue I faced whilst working at Point Cook within the city of Wyndham. The city of Wyndham has a population of 217,000 people, yet it has only 12 professional firefighters on shift within it at any one time. These FF's are across both CFA and MFB. With a move to FRV, this will remove boundaries, current interoperability issues and make for a more efficient service. This will improve community safety and provide a better service.

: The committee for investigating further growth of FRV will also be extremely important to ensure service continues into the future to cover the enormous growth within this region.

: Due to the creation of FRV and maintaining of current CFA brigades I cannot fathom how volunteers will leave the CFA and the described surge capacity will be affected. This is a pure political lie given to the public to create fear in order to attempt to destroy a government. Absolutely disgusting that the lies are being told and that the opposition holds Volunteers in such low regards. Volunteer support will remain with some employees form FRV being seconded to CFA. This will ensure job security and Volunteer training and support will remain at a high standard.

: Volunteer standards will increase across all fronts, infrastructure, training and equipment. No longer does funding go to CFA staff but to all things necessary for a Volunteer organization to function. This will be boosted with a \$100 million increase in funds.

: Presumptive Legislation. I don't believe this needs discussing, to hold back funds from families suffering, that have given their health and sometimes lives for the people of Victoria is a travesty. This needs to be signed off together now.

: One service. This will save millions of dollars on doubling up of everything. One structure, one board, the same ranks, equipment, interoperability, everything about one service is going to save the state millions in the long run.

On a final note, the harassment of professional firefighters needs to stop. The creation of one service of professional firefighters is the answer. There will be no longer any union involvement within the CFA and it can go back to what it was originally when formed, a volunteer only service. As a FF with 5 years of service, all I have known is an industry in turmoil and dispute. The effect on my family and I's mental health has been enormous. It hangs over our heads daily whilst at home and whilst at work. At work productivity drops, morale drops and efficiency all drops because of it. It needs to stop and the only way for that to occur is to form one service of professional firefighters.

I ask that you keep this information confidential and I trust that you will adhere to my wishes.

I appreciate your time to consider my letter.



[Redacted]
Geelong City Fire Station – 69 McKillop Street Geelong Vic 3220
[Redacted]

Protecting lives and property

cfa.vic.gov.au



This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.