



1st July 2017

RE:

Inquiry into the Firefighters' presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017.

To the Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

I am a Level 2 Career CFA Firefighter coming up to two and a half years of service. During this time I have obtained several qualifications including operation of the Heavy Hazmat appliance combined with the use of Chemical, Biological and radiological detector equipment.

I currently reside in the Surf Coast and work at the Corio Fire Station in District 7. Corio FS handles 1400 callouts per year and has the highest number of actual fires across the state.

The current model fire service is in need of reform; therefore the committee should consider the following points:

- Areas that have been considered as country are now high density suburbs such as Point Cook and Springvale.
- Regional Towns have increased in size and population, therefore fire risk has increased.
- The Geelong region and the Surf Coast are rapidly expanding and require stations that can turn out appliances in 90 seconds.
- Consider the safety of volunteers and their need of support from fully qualified Firefighters.
- Reforming 35 integrated stations will not affect volunteers and regional brigades.
- Reform will maintain and enhance career and volunteer Firefighter's ability to keep Victorians safe by working side by side, cohesively and effectively.

Although Volunteers have provided and continue to provide much needed emergency response, it is unfair to expect them to be able to keep Victorians safe in low to high density areas. Victorians deserve a fire service that can provide exceptional coverage and expertise in emergency situations.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Lee Evans
Level 2 Firefighter

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