

Corio Fire Station
20-32 Birdwood Ave, Norlane 3214
[REDACTED]



30/06/2017

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Parliament House, Spring St
East Melbourne, Vic, 3002

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Matt Roberts
Level 2 above strength fire-fighter
Employed by Country Fire Authority
Employed for 1.5 years as a career firefighter

I live in Armstrong Creek, Victoria and work in District 7 at Belmont and Corio Fire Stations

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

I strongly support the fire services reform because I live and work in a growing highly urbanised residential area that requires a modern urban fire service. Adopting the Fire Services Reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response standards and equipment, including incident response times to every incident 24/7, 365 days per year! The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas which have no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response. Although throughout my experience to date, the some of the public aren't getting their money's worth out of the fire services levy. More importantly aren't getting the response they deserve depending of the areas they live in. On many occasions additional appliances are required to be requested due to non-integrated stations lacking in manning on appliances to turn out, lack of qualifications to operate appliances, specialist equipment such as CABA, etc. Employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity but it will mean better community safety and protection with a guarantee of two trucks with at least 7 firefighters to be dispatched within 8 minutes.

The reform will benefit volunteers also as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades, etc.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Roberts
Fire Fighter Level 2
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