

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 10:39 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr David Gerrard
[REDACTED]

Group Officer.
Beaufort Fire Brigades Group.
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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2/7/2017

Fire Services Restructure
Dear Member of the Parliament of Victoria,

I am a proud Volunteer Firefighter with the CFA with over 40 years' service to my community and the State of Victoria.

My main concern that this bill was plucked out of the air without any due consultation with CFA executive, CFA Chief Officer or the MFB let alone any volunteers.

I would like to make the following comments on the current bill to split the CFA and introduce the Presumptive Legislation. These matters are separate and should be dealt with as such.

The Presumptive Legislation is unfair to the Volunteers of the CFA in that they do not have the same pathway to compensation as do the paid firefighters.

I can accept that there is need for a review of boundaries within the Melbourne area, but careful consideration has not been made to the retention of the current volunteers on the Integrated Stations. Throwing a bucketful of money at this problem will not fix the problems that will be created. We are dealing with human beings who have been under undue pressure for the past year or more. If this transition is not done carefully then the surge capacity of Victoria's' firefighting recourses could be lost.

The takeover of FRV into Country Victoria will alienate a lot of CFA brigades that are on the fringe area to the proposed new boundaries, in that they could be treated as second class firefighters to the professionals. I do not believe this is the case when we all wear the one badge.

The secondment back to the CFA of Operational Staff from FRV is also a matter of grave concern to me and I believe most of our CFA Volunteers. With these people in future to be recruited from the FRV it could mean that they will have none or little contact with CFA Volunteers before they take up their positions. Under this proposal it is not clear how they will be appointed. I believe that this entire Bill contains little information is short on fact and should be rejected until it is made clearer to all as to how it will work.

Respectfully yours,

David J. Gerrard A.F.S.M.
Beaufort Fire Brigades Group Officer.



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File1:

File2:

File3: