

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

1. I am

Neville Collins, an Operations Officer with the CFA. I have been employed by the CFA for 28 years and most recently hold the position as Operations Officer working in District 16 Headquarters in Ararat located in West Region.

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

- The reforms are around the 35 integrated station response areas.
- Little or no duplication
- Allows CFA to concentrate on volunteers and core business, not industrial issues
- Allows volunteer representatives from VFBV to concentrate on better conditions and equipment for volunteer members, not industrial issues
- In reference to Government response to Fire Services Review tabled in March 2016, still very little implementation of recommendations (uniform, standard appliances, communications, etc.)
- Joined CFA back in January 2000 and continually told that CFA were years ahead of other emergency service organisations, but after being in for some time now realise they are at least 15-20 years behind the UK fire service
- Guaranteed response in FRV (Fire Rescue Victoria) areas
- Increased safety for Firefighters and public
- Increased public confidence in response within FRV areas
- Won't affect surge capacity
- Regional brigades still providing services to Regional Community
- Similar to effective models used elsewhere in Australia and around the world
- CFA retains support staff
- Increase in initial funding (\$100 million)
- Presumptive legislation in line with other Australian states
- Ever increasing population within Victoria which puts increased workload expectation of volunteers due to All hazards approach
- Stress at work impacting on family
- Volunteer support will be maintained by Operations Officers and Operations Managers
- The reform areas are around 35 integrated stations primary response area
- Single agreement for all career firefighters

Yours sincerely

Neville Collins