

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I, Thomas Joseph Brodie, Volunteer Fire Fighter, lodge this submission on behalf of the District 22 Strategic Leadership Team of which I am the Chairperson.

The Strategic Leadership Team sets strategic direction and policy for the District to implement in alignment with CFA Policy, whilst upholding the values of the CFA Fire Service STAR and CFA corporate values.

I have been extremely fortunate to have received many commendations which include a AFSM, National Medal, National Emergency Medal and a Bicentennial Medal.

I live in Longwood and work in agriculture in the same location.

I also volunteer in the community of Longwood in several capacities including being on the Management Committee of the Longwood Community Centre and the State Chairman of the Knights of the Southern Cross.

I am writing this submission, on behalf of the District 22 Strategic Leadership Team, in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

- That the reform allows for greater autonomy for CFA, by allowing us to manage, maintain and enhance own business without the additional issue of complicated consultation. ie. Chief will be able to efficiently and effectively manage core business according to the CFA Act.
- We need to ensure that the Reform should provide consistency and ongoing support to District Staff.
- We support the concept of the reform but are concerned about the lack of consultation which is eroding confidence in the Fire Service.
- We need an ongoing commitment of funding to maintain and enhance training and equipment to fully support volunteerism and quality service delivery to the community.
- We need a guarantee that the priorities of the Strategic Leadership Team are sustained to maintain the security and confidence that currently exists in our community.

Yours sincerely

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