

Kirra Vanzetti

From: TOLMER, Jennifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 2:36 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS AND COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

I am a Leading Firefighter employed with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for the past ten years. I am a qualified High Angle Rescue Technician and Ladder Platform Operator.
I live in Richmond and work at Eastern Hill Fire Station in East Melbourne.

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

- It is of vital importance that we have a guaranteed 2 truck turnout, with at least 7 firefighters to an incident to ensure the ongoing safety of both myself and my fellow firefighters. Without this stipulation you could potentially have a dangerous situation in which a firefighter has to decide upon ensuring their own safety by not entering a burning building alone and thereby leaving someone inside or endangering their own life in order to serve the community.
- It is only common sense that as the population of Victoria increases and the urban sprawl of Melbourne increases that the level of service provided by the relevant fire authority should alter and increase accordingly. While everyone has to pay the fire services levy there is a gross level of inequality of the level of cover provided based upon what suburb you live and whether that has historically been more of a rural area but is now highly urbanised.
- This reform will have absolutely no effect upon the ability of Volunteer Firefighters to continue to provide the vital and exemplary cover in Victoria’s rural areas.
- The bringing together of Victoria’s two professional fire brigades into one service is long overdue. We currently have a situation where two separate services turn out together with different equipment, different levels of training and different operational guidelines. The standardisation of the services can only ultimately provide the community with a better more professional fire service and also, in the long run, save money.

Thank you for considering these points based on my 10 years as a Leading Firefighter.

Yours sincerely,
LFF Jennifer Tolmer

[REDACTED]

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