

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017
To: [LCSC](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Nearly three years ago I left a well paying and personally challenging military career spanning close to eighteen years. This was to pursue a new challenge, a dream job as a professional firefighter. I had always admired the courage, selflessness and honour that came with such a profession.

In my relatively new career as a firefighter, I have now learned that this perception of a career as a firefighter means very little to some people. Sadly this view is based on mislaid trust from those who should be our closest allies.

My greatest concern is that the general public and their safety is not the number one priority for those whose sole goal should be to give the public the greatest possible protection.

After all, isn't Protecting Lives and Property our absolute priority?

Why have we settled for a near enough is good enough approach for so long when there is an obvious impact on Fire Service Delivery across Victoria? This is particularly evident in the Greater Melbourne area where suburbs such as Dandenong, Springvale and Frankston to name a few, are clearly not even close to being considered "country" centres.

Surely we can better protect the lives and property by extending the reach of our staff resources.

Why have professional crews who can have an appliance on the road within 90 sec sitting and waiting to be responded while volunteer firefighters through no fault of their own can not respond due to work or family commitments.

Or worse still, professional firefighting crews not called upon to respond due to some stubborn volunteers refusing assistance and therefore putting the public and themselves at significant risk.

The need for Fire Services Reform is well over due.

We should be protecting Victorian lives and property the best way we possibly can. Not doing it by halves.

Hopefully we don't find ourselves where a missed opportunity to create a safer fire service model for all Victorians.

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File1:

File2:

File3: