

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** WEIR, William [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 July 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 Submission.  
**Attachments:** OuterSuburbSaves.xlsx; OuterSuburbSaves.pdf

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

## Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

I am William Weir  
 Commander  
 Metropolitan Fire Brigade  
 Thirty Nine, Years' Service  
 Awards                    Australian Fire Service Medal  
                                  National Medal  
                                  Emergency Service Medal  
                                  Long Service and Good Conduct Medal  
 Qualifications -        Advanced Diploma Business Management  
                                  Advanced Diploma Business Management (Public Safety)  
                                  Incident Controller Level 2  
                                  Planning officer Level 2  
                                  Operations officer Level 2  
                                  Logistics Officer Level 2  
                                  Fire Rescue Emergency Medical Response First Responder. 22270 VIC  
                                  Chemical, Biological Radiation Officer  
                                  Breathing Apparatus  
                                  Strike Team Leader  
                                  MFB Liaison Officer  
                                  Wild Fire Level 2  
                                  Fire Rescue Suite Level one through to Level 5  
 Community -            Representative on the Community Transport Committee  
                                  Representative on the Community Safety Committee  
                                  Various office bearer positions in the Swimming and junior basketball  
 clubs.  
                                  Board member of the local licenced club  
                                  President of Western 4X4 driving club

I live at [REDACTED] and work managing the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department of the Metropolitan Fire brigade at the Burnley Complex at 450 Burnley Street Richmond 3121

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

- Currently as I live in the CFA area near the MFB/CFA boundary, I would not receive the same response to a call for assistance in relation to a fire call as a resident living a short

distance away on the MFB Metropolitan District. The MFB would respond with seven professional career firefighters within 7.7 minutes, however the CFA would only be able to respond three professional career firefighter supported by volunteers. In a recent fire nearby to my residence. This scenario is an issue for the community and firefighters safety.

- The CFA career firefighters are currently in the process of being trained as Emergency Medical Response First Responders (EMR). If the crew were to get a fire or EMR call, then the medical response capability would no longer be available to the community until the crew clear the scene. This would not be the case in an FRV or MFB environment as resources would be relocated to provide appropriate coverage for this role.
- The practice of CFA volunteers arriving on scene without the appropriate firefighting equipment, but booking on scene to provide data to their on scene time, would not occur under an FRV scenario. E.g. two volunteers arrive in a four wheel drive vehicle, book on scene but are unable to fight a fire due to not having a pumper on scene.
- Having a standardised response criteria will ensure the most appropriate equipment and crews are responded to an alarm of fire in a timely manner.
- The skills and qualifications of volunteers varies greatly whereas the career firefighters have a standardised set of skills and training. E.g. some volunteers have arrived on scene but are not qualified to use breathing apparatus, which prevents the ability to rescue community members from a building and increases the health risks to both the public and the individual volunteer firefighters.
- The career firefighters provide a high standard of service which is consistent around their skill and proficiency. Although I live very close to MFB/CFA boundary I do not believe that I receive the same level of service as those in the MFB area.
- I am of the opinion that employing all career firefighter in one fire service will not adversely affect volunteer turn out or surge capacity.
- That volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters such as Operations Officer and Operations Managers continuing their roles with the CFA by arrangement with FRV.
- The reform areas are around the thirty five integrated stations primary response areas and will have no effect on the volunteer brigades or bushfire response.
- The thirty five areas are now highly urbanised, high residential, industry, health care and freeway and arterial road risks.
- The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment.
- This current process has been prolonged and has had a serious impact on firefighters, families and the community and needs to be resolved in a timely manner. The reform will benefit volunteers assist has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades.

Recently I met with a person who went into cardiac arrest. The MFB Emergency Medical Response First Responders attended in support of Ambulance Victoria. Had this person been a very short distance away this fire service would not have attended in a medical response capacity and the outcome may have been very different.

I attach some statistics and a map that show the different level of coverage around the Emergency Medical Response, which is available in the Metropolitan district but unavailable a short distance away.

Yours Sincerely

William Weir  


[REDACTED]

**Commander Bill Weir AFSM |**  
**Emergency Medical Services**  
**Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board**  
450 Burnley Street, Richmond. Vic. 3121

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