

5/7/2017

The Honourable James Merlino MP
Minister for Emergency Services
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne. Vic 3002.



Dear Minister,

**Proposed Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment
(Reform) Bill 2017**

It is with great concern that I write this letter on behalf of our local Westmere CFA volunteer members, and the CFA Westmere Group, District 16.

I currently hold the volunteer position of Captain of the Westmere CFA Brigade, and have so for the last 28 years. During this time, the brigade members and I have seen many changes to CFA and MFB.

The current proposed Bill reform is very disturbing.

There has been no consultation with our local brigade volunteers or the VFBV in relation to the impact of the proposed bill reform in regards to the structure, funding, chain of command, and capacity of volunteers and paid staff.

Local volunteers and community members have expressed their concerns to me about the negative impact of the political and industrial nature of the Bill reform in relation to how we work within the CFA, and Emergency services in Victoria. We do not want to lose our local input and knowledge, within a larger system which is not suited to small rural services.

We ask you to consider greater consultation process with the community before progressing with this legislation amendment reform bill.

Yours sincerely

Mr Andrew Holdsworth



Captain, Westmere Fire Brigade.