


Angela Kocek


c/o Hallam Fire Brigade
12-14 Belgrave-Hallam Road, Hallam VIC 3803


03 Jul 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

1. I am a Level 1 Fire-fighter, attached to an Above Strength position at Hallam Fire Station, Hallam. I have been a member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) since 03 Aug 16 and have my Type 4 Heavy Pumper Increment; working towards 3.4C Tanker Increment in order to achieve Minimum Crewing.

2. I live in Frankston and work in Hallam, where I have worked since 20 Mar 17.

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

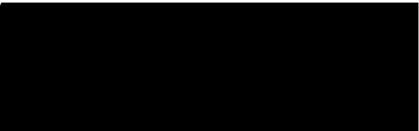
a) As a Fire-fighter, I cannot express how fundamental it is that we have support on the Fire-ground – through local CFA volunteers and neighbouring Brigades. This support allows the incident to be controlled as soon as practical and ensures the protection of life and property.

b) I have been a member of the CFA as a Professional Fire-fighter since 03 Aug 16 and 'on station' since 12 Dec 16. In this short time, I have witnessed neighbouring Volunteer only Fire Brigades failing to respond and subsequently re-paged. This does not allow the OIC of the Fire-ground to plan appropriately with known facts or transparency with resources. This results in a vulnerability and Fire Crews working with an 'unknown'.

Where an 'unknown' is prevalent; Fire Crews are in danger. Control of the Fire-ground is lost. This occurred when a neighbouring Brigade turned out to an incident with only one person on the Appliance; one person that is not qualified to assist with said incident. This behaviour does not champion the safety of the Community.

4. The proposed reform of the fire services allows the development of the fire services relative to the exponential growth of outer-metropolitan Melbourne suburbs. This in turn will ensure a stronger and more consistent service delivery to the Community.

Yours sincerely,


Angela Louise Kocek
ASFF, 28868
Hallam Fire Brigade