

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Brett Nagorcka,

Qualified Firefighter for the Country Fire Authority. I have been an employee for 3.5 years and was a volunteer for 8 years and have a 10 year service medal with the CFA. I live in East Geelong and work at Geelong City Fire Brigade.

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

The current CFA model of an integrated service that is volunteer supported by staff is out dated and a broken system. Victoria metro areas have grown rapidly since this model was put into place as well as regional cities that now require a full time service to ensure the communities safety. Ensuring that we have a guarantee of seven firefighters on the fire ground in the eight minute standard greatly enhances the safety of the community but also my safety.

The proposed reform areas around the integrated station are now heavily urbanised with large amounts of people and increased industry. I believe the reform will have no effect on Volunteers and will not impact surge capacity at all. I believe that creating one fire service can only be a good thing for the future of Victoria.

In the 3.5 years I have been a professional firefighter the EBA dispute has been going on, I don't know what it is like not to be under attack from government and media. This has had a massive negative effect on the moral of the station. The constant media scrutiny of something that will be great for Victoria is wearing thin and members of the public are seeing career staff as the enemy of volunteers. This couldn't be further from the truth. We are here purely to serve the community on their worst day and we want to do this in a safe and effecting manner so when our shifts are over we are able to go home safe to our families like everyone else. I believe the best way for us to work in a safe environment is for a reform of the fire services.

Reforming the fire service will greatly enhance Victoria's firefighting capacity with MFB and Career CFA staff combining and joining forces. All using the same equipment, all using the same training as seen by the new VEMTEC Victorian fire recruitment, all working together.

For the volunteers there is included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades. They are in no way being left behind or forgotten about in this reform, we will still all work together as we currently do.

Yours sincerely,



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