

Kirra Vanzetti

From: LESSER, Shane [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 10:48 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

I am a level 1 fire-fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB). I am new to the role having only graduated in late June.

I live in Diamond Creek and work in Preston, at Fire Station 12.

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

- Having two fire trucks with at least seven fire-fighters respond to an alarm of fire within 8 minutes is crucial when responding to urgent situations such as structure fires, for example a house fire. A fire that is able to be attacked in the early stages is more likely to be contained to an area of a house, rather than the entire house becoming involved in fire and posing further risk to neighbouring premises and property. The associated risk to life and safety is obvious in this situation. Having a minimum of seven fire fighters on scene allows fire fighters to operate safely and provide the resources to be able to conduct vital tasks such as the search of premises more promptly, giving any person trapped inside a far greater chance of survival. Whilst I have only recently begun my role as a fire fighter, during my training I was able to learn about rapidly fire can spread through a structure once it establishes and how dangerous smoke and heat are to people who may be exposed to them.
- In terms of medical response such as attending a cardiac arrest, early intervention and defibrillation is paramount. Having the above mentioned response will provide a casualty with a greater opportunity to receive this early intervention and increased chance of a positive outcome. Having a response from fire fighters within eight minutes goes a long way to providing this early intervention.
- Having one fire service across the state will provide a more consistent and better functioning fire services. It will allow the opportunity to incorporate the best features of both the current fire services into the new service. It will also alleviate issues currently experienced such as commination difficulties between services using different equipment, and providing different response services to the community depending on whether they fall within an MFB or CFA area. For example CFA trucks carry vehicle rescue equipment as standard, MFB do not. I believe having a consistent response from fire fighters is not only reassuring to the community, but is owed to the community. We have a single Police force across the state, a single Ambulance service providing a consistent service across the state, paid fire fighters should be no different.

Yours Sincerely,

Shane Lesser

[REDACTED]

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