

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

My name is: Byron Kershaw, I am an Operations Officer with the Country Fire Authority. I have been employed by the CFA for over 33 years and volunteered with my local brigades for 39 years living in Buckley 30 Kilometres West of Geelong on a farm with my family.

My Current working location is District 06 Colac Headquarters as an Operations Officer. I have held this position for 5 years; I look after 34 Volunteer brigades and 3 Groups from Wye River to Cape Otway and North of Lismore.

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

CFA Volunteers will benefit greatly from the xchange, as management will be able to concentrate on core business with the support of the VFVB, without any industrial issues.

Surge capacity will never be affected, in my position I have never had an issue of fulfilling strike teams to support other districts and we have never been let down in accomplishment support from another district.

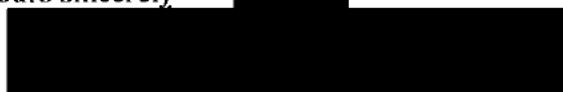
The proposed Fire Rescue Victoria will have one agreement for all career firefighters, no duplication of equipment, uniforms, communications and appliances. A guaranteed response in all FRV areas with an increased safety to public and firefighters .

With the ever increasing population within Victoria which puts increased workload and high expectations of our ever ageing volunteers to respond to all hazards, will be able to be reviewed and actioned in the appropriate professional way.

CFA regional brigades will continue to look after their brigade areas with the support of existing CFA staff and local community's. This model of fire service is very similar used elsewhere in Australia and around the world, which has proved to be efficient.

The proposed Presumptive Legislation will be in line with other Australian states, this will protect all firefighters and relieve the stress at work and impacted on there families.

Yours Sincerely



Byron Kershaw