

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

I am,

[REDACTED]

Station Officer

CFA

Currently employed since August 2007

My qualifications include; Cert II Public Safety (Fire & Emergency Operations),

Cert III Public Safety (Fire & Emergency Operations),

Fire Rescue Emergency Medical First Responder, AIIIMS qualified,

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Specialist qualifications include; Course in Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

([REDACTED]).

CFA Endorsed; Hazmat instructor. CFA Endorsed; Monitor, Detect and Identify Hazardous Atmospheres Instructor.

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

It is important for us as firefighters and incident controllers to have guaranteed backup, guaranteed that two trucks will be dispatched within eight minutes, at times in my response area there have been numerous times where this has not happened. On instance recently where we were responded to a fire in a neighbouring response area and the primary brigade failed to respond in the first instance, as I was contemplating responding another brigade the primary brigade turned out.

If we can be guaranteed a better response this means better protection for firefighters and safety for the community. In my instance above luckily the conditions were not conducive to rapid fire spread and the fire was contained to a small area with little impact to the surrounding vicinity.

I don't see volunteer support being diminished, with operational firefighters in the same district, as operational firefighters, we can't service the entire district and leave a major regional city with little to no fire coverage.

As I highlighted above the reform around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas will have no effect on other volunteer brigade's response to bushfire and other related events.

The 35 areas highlighted for this change are now highly urbanised, high residential risks, including light and heavy industrial areas. In my primary area one example of risk is a hazardous

material present. We have a product such as ammonia which is used in cool stores. We have other large manufacturing in our area SPC, Pental Soaps (which is classed as a major hazard facility).

The reform will assist with standardisation of career training /specialist response standards and equipment. This will improve responses to all types of incidents specifically specialist response.

The damage this dispute has had on our profession and us personally has been relentless and causes unnecessary strain on us in our workplace and impacts us in our daily life. A once highly regarded profession as firefighters has been damaged and possibly take years to get the respect of the greater community back again.

I believe the reform will benefit the volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across CFA and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades etc.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]