

Tuesday, 4 July 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

I have been a leading firelighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for the past 5 years. I am a Qualified Hazmat Technician and Breathing Apparatus Service Operator.

I live in Brighton East and currently I am stationed at South Melbourne Fire Station.

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

- The proposed fire services reform provides an opportunity for all of Victoria's fire services in built up areas to have a guaranteed 7 minute response.
- It also provides the framework for a two truck (7 fire fighter minimum) response on scene.
- This will equalise the service for people who live in high density areas that may only be serviced by volunteer brigades, to receive the same response as people who live in the current metropolitan fire district. It should be noted that all residents of Victoria pay the same fire services levy, but they do not all receive the same fire service.
- Recent studies have shown that Melbourne is in the midst of a population boom. It is inconceivable to think that we as a state can move forward and not provide the community with a fully professional fire response in new suburbs that has infrastructure expanding all the time. Volunteers do an exceptional job, but they cannot be relied upon to respond to every call, particularly as the amount of calls increase due to this urban expansion.
- The proposed fire services reform will not affect volunteers
- There will be a guaranteed professional firefighter response which will provide a safer workplace for fighters and better outcomes for the public.
- Other states successfully run a separate career and volunteer fire service without any interruption to the service provided to the community.

I hope you will take the time to consider these points that I have raised based upon my experiences as a firefighter for the last five years.

Yours sincerely

Simon Hevey

