

Dear Inquiry Committee,

## INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS

### COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT

#### (REFORM) BILL 2017

- My name is [REDACTED], a firefighter of 2 years with the MFB.
- I wish for my submission to remain confidential.
- [REDACTED] for the last 1.5 years I have been stationed between Somerton (FS09) and Epping (FS11).
- We respond primarily with MFB appliances from Thomastown, Somerton and Bundoora, but also with CFA appliances from South Morang, Epping, Craigieburn, Greenvale and Plenty.
- I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

As I am stationed in the Metropolitan Fire District, the assignment rules dictate that at least one other primary fire appliance will be dispatched to a Fire Call, that means I know there is a minimum of 3 other firefighters holding the same, if not higher qualifications and have completed the same training as me. This give me confidence and allows me to mentally commit myself knowing that backup is right behind me, with the second appliance being dispatched at the same time.

As the Metropolitan Fire District has not changed in 60 years, we are also dispatched into CFA areas classified as "Country" which are highly populated, urbanised areas. These areas including a range of buildings and industries including schools, hospital and shopping centres.

Regardless of the amazing job CFA volunteer brigades do, the fact remains that they cannot be available 24/7 365, as they shouldn't, they are community members with jobs and families. With our outer Metropolitan growth rapidly expanding (1800 per week settling in Melbourne according to CENSUS 2016), particularly in the North, the volume of calls is increasing as is the need for a professional response.

Moving to one fire service and having all operational staff under the same organisation covering these outer metropolitan areas the people that live there will be guaranteed the following response: 2 fire appliances with minimum 7 fire fighters (2 teams of 2 wearing breathing apparatus, 2 pump operators and 1 incident controller) they will receive the fire coverage that they deserve and the volunteer response will not be altered, they will still be responded which is beneficial for additional support.

The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas, those stations will continue to work alongside and be co-located FRV and CFA. There is no change to any other volunteer brigades or the bushfire response.

Lastly the CFA will receive a massive boost of 100 million dollars to assist with this change for retention, recruitment and station upgrades.

This legislation passing is a positive result for all Victorians

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL