

This is a personal and confidential submission.

**Submission to the fire services review by Senior Station [REDACTED].**

I am a CFA fire fighter. I have 26 years' experience, 12 as a volunteer and 14 as a career member.

I support the proposed changes to create FRV and believe that CFA and FRV would benefit from the changes into the future. I also support the introduction of the Presumptive legislation.

The current structure is out-dated, it has served the state well till now but is overdue for a restructure.

Volunteering, like most aspects of our modern day society seems to be under stress. CFA fire calls have increased. My station has had a 50% increase in fire calls over the last 5 years. People seem to be working and traveling greater distances and there seems to be fewer employees able leave work to attend fire calls during business hours.

My community has a population of 65,000 people and deserves a fire service that can provide a predicted response to emergency calls 24 hours a day. The current arrangement usually means under resourced response during business hours and over resourced response on weekends and out of business hours.

I like the proposed changes because they provide the opportunity for CFA and FRV to be co-located, to work together and provide a fire and rescue response to emergencies.

Co-location will allow the current working relationships to prosper between volunteer and career fire-fighters. Co-location provides opportunities for combined training, team building and communication to occur.

I believe changes to the Fair Work legislation have made it very difficult/impossible to implement future EBA's. The establishment of FRV allows career fire-fighters to negotiate future EBA's and still effectively work with volunteer CFA fire-fighters as we currently do.

The introduction of presumptive legislation would mean I could avoid a costly and extensive legal battle to access support should I get fire related cancers. We all know that fire-fighters have a higher rate of certain cancers because of the exposure to smoke and chemicals associated with this activity.

I support volunteer and career fire-fighters having access to support provided by the proposed presumptive legislation.

Regards

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