

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Bob Hetherington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2017 10:37 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

**"I wish this submission to remain private and not to be printed or published in any way"**

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

1. I am Robert Ian Hetherington,
2. I have held the rank of Acting Senior Station Officer for the past 12 years.
3. I work with in fire safety within the Building Inspection and Compliance unit as the legislative enforcement officer
4. I have been employed by the MFB for the past 32 years
5. I hold a dip of front line management, Advanced Dip Public Safety
6. Apart from both military and fire service decorations, I have been awarded the AFSM

**2. I live in [REDACTED] and work from 450 Burnley Street Richmond**

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

- PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION, from a person who has experienced the demeaning actions of the work cover system the presumptive Rights Compensation is way overdue and will at least make the way for better care for both Vol and Perm firefighters.
- Response times will improve for the greater urbanised areas providing greater protection for all residents.
- It is my understanding that employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity in any way, most things will remain the same except in the long term maybe a different logo.
- That the reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response
- The 35 areas are now highly urbanised – high residential and other risks
- The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc
- From my role as a peer I have first had experience of the damage the disputation has had on our workforce and the flow onto the home environment.
- Its been clearly stated that reform will benefit volunteers, as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station

upgrades etc The Volunteers do a fantastic job and have come a long way from relying on the old MFB uniforms to kit out there crews

It's time the bickering, back stabbing, inaction and turf war was terminated for the better of the Victorian community as a whole

Yours sincerely,

*Bob Hetherington AFSM*

