

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Graham and Anne Peacock [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:54 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform Bill

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Inquiry into the firefighters' presumptive right compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) Bill 2017.

My name is Graham Peacock

- Station Officer

- Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- 28 years

- Qualifications: Heavy Rescue

- Ladder Platform
- Transporter
- MK IV, MK V
- Front End Loader
- CBR
- EMR - First responder
- Peer Support

- Specialist - Heavy Rescue Operator

- Awards - Citation of Service

I live in Hillside and work at Sunshine Fire Station.

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

- I have seen first hand what happens when an intense fire takes hold in an area designated as country, but is clearly now urbanised and covered by a volunteer service. The response time is paramount and time critical to life and property. I believe that all previous country areas designated by current boundaries, which have now become urbanised due to the huge growth in and around the outskirts of Melbourne need to be updated and changed. I therefore believe it is vital that these areas require a full time professional fire service to ensure the safety of these communities. I currently reside in an area, which is clearly urbanised (35 mins from CBD) which at this stage is covered by a volunteer service, therefore for the safety of my family and the community it is vital that this reform is passed.

- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Dandenong, Cranbourne, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

- These areas need to be modernised, as they are highly urbanised areas. A rapid 8- minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two appliances is the minimum standard needed.

- All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities. To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to support the proposed Fire Services Reform.

- Additionally this reform along with the introduction of presumptive legislation law will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demands being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Peacock

