

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** LINDSAY MCKENZIE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 2 July 2017 10:40 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Submission to Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Assistant Clerk Committees  
Department of the Legislative Council  
Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Sir/Madam,

As I volunteer firefighter with the CFA, I wish to express my deep concern with regard to the *Fire-fighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Service Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017* that is currently being considered by your committee.

Above anything else, the Bill combines two totally separate issues: The Bill should be split to separate presumptive rights compensation from the aspects relating to structural change to Victoria's Fire Services.

While I am supportive of genuine and cost-effective fire service modernisation, the approach to modernisation needs to go through a transparent and proper process of scrutiny and review before any legislation is passed. So far this has not been done and hence there is little detail included in the above-mentioned Bill.

As I see it, the above-mentioned Bill, as it currently stands:

- creates less flexibility for the fire service to adapt to changing risk and service demands.
- fragments Victoria's fire services when all recent review have said fire service modernisation needs to be about joining up effort.
- creates 35 separated fire service islands spread throughout regional Victoria creating confusion, duplication and complex chains of command.
- attempts to drive a wedge between volunteers and paid staff thereby seeking to demoralise, discriminate and segregate volunteers from paid staff.

Volunteer fire fighters are fundamental to Victoria's emergency management capability, fundamental to community resilience and at the core of communities sharing responsibility for their own safety. Hence it is vitally important to ensure that volunteers are involved in decision making on all issues that affect them, both to make the most of their frontline knowledge and to help sustain Victoria's essential volunteer resource. Any change that is designed to devalue and undermine volunteerism, such as this legislation purports, must be rejected.

I trust that you will take my submission into consideration as you meet together in the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr) Lindsay McKenzie  
Treasurer  
Yellingbo Rural Fire Brigade



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