

I would like to voice my support to the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

Being a new Firefighter of 2 years at Broadmeadows Fire Station, I have been subjected to a new and exciting career, and this is how I look upon the new amendments.

This change in the legislation not only brings the MFB/CFA closer together but ensures that the protection of Melbourne and Victoria is kept as the main priority.

The changes in Melbourne's population over the last 50 years have significantly altered the way in which it has to be protected. Uniting the MFB/CFA would revolutionise the fire service, but the protection of outer suburbs, and country towns in heavily populated areas would be guaranteed the quick response and protection that it deserves.

The CFA volunteers are very important to the protection of Victoria, and merging into FRV, would not change the way in which the volunteers support their communities, but would give the CFA a clear understanding of what is required in the important work that they do.

Having FRV in which includes the outer suburbs of Melbourne, and highly populated country towns, would ensure that in the event of a fire, 7 professional firefighters would be on scene in a very timely manner. Also, 7 professional fully qualified firefighters would be able to use all equipment including Breathing Apparatus. This would ensure that all endeavours were made to quickly save lives, minimise property damage and prevent the spread of fire.

I believe that the safety of the population is our main goal, and to successfully do this, the Amendment to the Legislation should be passed. The responsibility to protect the population should be adhered to first, and due to the extreme change to our outer suburbs and country cities since the 1960's, our Fire Service has to change as well.

Thank you,

Donal Taylor. 11048

FF2 Broadmeadows Fire Station.