

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

I am FF Mitchell Gibney. I have been an employee as a fire-fighter with the CFA since July 2015. I live in Mentone and work at Mornington fire station.

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

- I believe it is very important to have guaranteed backup. We need guaranteed two trucks with at least 7 fire-fighters to ensure safety of our fire-fighters and to have better success with protecting the community.
- This response will enable fire-fighters to have a much better success with rescue if required by the community and also rescue of one of our own fire-fighters if back-up is needed.
- In the past there have been many jobs where we have had no response from volunteers and if we are relying on this as our back-up we could lose lives.
- Volunteer support will be maintained with operational fire-fighters (OO's OMs will be employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)
- The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas which will have no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response. The areas have become highly urbanised due to population growth and this needs to be addressed.
- Currently CFA fire-fighters would not be able to operate MFB trucks and vice versa. This needs to change and we should all be employed as one fire service. Training, response standards and equipment would all become standardised across all Victorian career fire-fighters.
- The reform will also be beneficial for volunteers. It will include a package to assist volunteers with recruitment and retention. Another benefit is funding for volunteer station upgrades.

Yours sincerely,

Full Name: Mitchell Gibney

[REDACTED]