

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr Peter Parkes  
[REDACTED]

Firefighter  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade

Somerton Fire Station, 10 Somerton Park Drive Campbellfield

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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To Whom It May Concern.

My name is Peter Parkes. I am a Firefighter in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, currently working in the Northern District, at Somerton Fire Station. I have been in the organisation for approximately 2 years.

Somerton Fire Station lies on the northern fringe of the Metropolitan Fire District. Turn turn out to fire calls in conjunction with paid and volunteer CFA firefighters from Craigieburn, Greenvale and Epping CFA Stations.

When turning out with CFA the firefighters I have come into contact with have been hardworking, professional and capable firefighters.

However when attending fire calls the different radio systems have resulted in difficulty communications between organisations on the fire ground. The MFB employ the MMR radio system which does not work with the CFA radio system. On an MFB appliance there is only one CFA radio, for the Officer use, not enough for each firefighter. I have been in a house fire with career CFA firefighters where I have had to relay information from inside the fire via my MFB radio to the Station Officer who would then pass messages via CFA radio to the Incident Controller. Combining the career firefighters under the Bill will result in one radio communication system that will mean we can respond to fire calls in a manner that is safer for firefighters, and will bring about a more effective and efficient execution of our job.

I believe that the Fire Services Bill will improve the working relationship between the proposed FRV and CFA by improving response times of not only the first appliance but also the secondary appliance to fire calls within the Somerton area.

I live in Mill Park, which is on the fringe of the MFD. We purchased a house from the original owner who built the house in 1978. At that time he said that he was only the second house in the street, and that all around his house there were paddocks filled with horses. Now, in 2017 the suburb has become highly urbanised, with a high density of residential homes, shopping centres (Uni Hill, Bundoora and Westfield,

South Morang) and an influx of students at RMIT Bundoora. There are plans to continue urban development with the extension of the railway line beyond South Morang Train Station.

I look forward to the end of the industrial dispute and the negative effect it has had on the public view of MFB firefighters as well as the negative impact it has had on Firefighter morale.

I look forward to seeing how we can better serve the growing community both in the Northern regions as well as the rest of Victoria under the FRV and the Fire Services reform.

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File1:

File2:

File3: