

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Paul Noone [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 3:21 PM
To: 'LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au'
Subject: Submission for enquiry into Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

Firstly I request all details of this email remain confidential.

My name is Paul Noone, I'm a level 2 firefighter with the Country Fire Authority based at Hallam.

I have been in the job since July, 2015, so I'm sure you can appreciate that all I currently know of the fire services is the unrest and ill feeling we have witnessed over the past years.

Having been sent to Pakenham straight out of recruits, a station that is isolated from other staff stations, I have witnessed many occasions where our truck and crew has been left waiting for backup to arrive, which is always volunteers, only for this backup to either be too late to be of any help, or this backup does arrive with a crew that doesn't have the required training to be able to assist with the job. With the passing of this new legislation, and in turn the signing of the new EBA, what we would see is another staff crew immediately sent to the same job, so in the event that the volunteer crews are busy at work, the people of Pakenham will still see a sufficient response to keep them safe, and the staff at places like Pakenham will know they have someone on the way to give them the help to do the job, and to keep them safe.

Another anomaly that occurs in Pakenham, that shouldn't, related to our primary service area. When the new staff station was put in, the primary response area wasn't changed in order to make sure neighbouring brigades didn't lose any of their primary area. This resulted in a large shopping centre across the road from the fire station being placed in our "support" area despite the fact the shops, containing a large Bunnings amongst other large business's, are within a good drop punts distance. Whilst under normal circumstances this doesn't affect service delivery as we are still sent there and arrive on scene first, when EMR was introduced, a problem arose. As we only respond to EMR in our primary area, we were faced with the situation that if someone went into cardiac arrest across the road from the fire station, the brigade would not have been paged as it wasn't in our primary area. Whilst this was eventually fixed, it never should have come up. The community doesn't care for imaginary lines dictating who responds into what area. They pay their fire service levy to ensure a truck turns out to help them when they are in need. A staff station should be utilised to give maximum service to the community, regardless of who claims to have ownership of a certain area.

This is just an example of two instances that could be fixed by supporting the proposed reforms. We want to get on with the job of protecting lives and property in the community, and I ask that you support these reforms so I can do just that.

Regards,

Paul Noone Firefighter

CFA Hallam – 12-14 Belgrave-Hallam Rd
Hallam, VIC, 3803



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