

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Peter Higgins [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 9:25 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Peter Albert Higgins
 Station Officer, employed by The Country Fire Authority.
 I have been in this service for 32 years and am currently stationed at Caroline Springs.

I live in the Shire of Melton and currently work in Caroline Springs.

I am writing this submission in to show my support for the proposed reform of the Fire Services.
 These reforms are extremely important to me in the sense that a guaranteed response of seven firefighters upon receipt of an emergency call will greatly enhance the safety of not only members of the fire service, but also to the safety of all other emergency services personel present at the scene. This reform will also have no impact on volunteer members attached to the integrated brigades throughout the state as their response requirements will remain the same.

The enhanced response capabilities will also be of great benefit to the wider community, giving us more flexibility to control any type of incident whilst providing protection to any affected persons, as well as members of the public.

The volunteer structure/capability will not be damaged in any way with their current roles/responsibilities remaining intact.

We at Caroline Springs Fire Station are facing greater challenges each year. A prime example is in fire protection capabilities in the area of Rockbank. This is an area where residential growth is progressing at an alarming rate. The problem we face in this area is that the local Brigade has very few members, most of whom work in the western suburbs, or further afield, reducing the turnout capabilities of their Brigade. Subsequently Caroline Springs is responding to all their calls as the primary responders, with the disadvantage of extended travel times on a major highway.

*Peter Higgins.
 Station Officer.
 Caroline Springs.
 9360 5679*

**Shop Steward,
 STRENGTH IN UNITY**



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