

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is [REDACTED], I am a Senior Station Officer in the CFA. I have been a Career Firefighter for 8 years and a member of the CFA for 19 years. I work full time at the Mildura Fire Station, which is the most, isolated integrated station in Victoria.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reforms to the fire services for the following reasons

- The fire services boundaries have not had significant change in over 60 years. Heavily populated areas of Melbourne, are still considered to be “country” areas. (Areas such as Dandenong, Geelong, Craigieburn and Eltham).
- Volunteers in many areas are doing the best they can to meet the growing demands of emergency response, but due to family/work/location/time and other commitments this is becoming more difficult.
- With the introduction of seven career firefighters being dispatched to fire calls in proposed FRV areas, the community will receive an increased service. Firefighters responding to fire calls will have guaranteed back up and improved safety.
- Standardisation between MFB and CFA will assist in interoperability between both agencies by having the same training and equipment.
- Morale has never been lower, and mental health issues have never been higher than what they are now in the fire services. The fire services reform will be a positive step to fostering a positive environment for career firefighters.
- The reform will only effect the 35 integrated stations within CFA and will not have no effect on other volunteer brigades or surge capacity.
- The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA. This also includes funding for volunteer station upgrades.

Thankyou for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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