

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(REFORM) BILL 201**

My name is Brad Turner, and I am a firefighter in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I live in Deer Park and I have worked as a firefighter for the MFB for the past two and a half years. During this time, I have worked across the western suburbs of Melbourne, where we have seen exponential growth in both residential and industrial development that extends far outside the grossly outdated Metropolitan Fire District boundaries. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services and I am excited at the prospect of a new modern fire service that will deliver world class fire protection to the whole of Melbourne, not just those that live in the Metropolitan Fire District.

I have attended many fire calls as an MFB firefighter, where we rely heavily on the guaranteed backup that two trucks and a minimum of 7 firefighters provides for our safety and for the safety of the community. It is unacceptable that there are heavily urbanized areas in Melbourne, that cannot deliver that guarantee under the current system and as a result are putting the lives of firefighters and members of the public at risk, particularly in the early crucial minutes at a fire. This also means that millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure is not adequately protected.

It is time that Melbourne had a modern fire service, staffed by career firefighters, and employed under the one service, that can deliver fire protection that meets the public's expectation for Victoria's capital city.

This reform will also see much needed funding provided for Victoria's CFA volunteers to assist with recruitment, retention and training and also includes funding for volunteer station upgrades. This will maintain Victoria's volunteer surge capacity.

I trust you will see that these reforms are imperative to fire safety both now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Brad Turner

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