

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 10:05 AM
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 Robinson
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a Leading Fire fighter.

I see the proposed reforms for the fire service as being much needed and way overdue.

In these highly populated metro areas and large regional centres throughout Victoria, there is an expectation that when there is a call for help, fire fighters will be turned out in 90 seconds from receipt of call, and on scene within 8 minutes. This can rarely be achieved by volunteers, as they have their own lives and jobs and are not at the station 24 hours a day.

It is an unreal expectation that if your wife and children are trapped in a car from a serious accident, that we rely on anything less than a guaranteed response, where every person responding is fully qualified for the task and a 90 second turnout.

Is it reasonable for your family, while in need of emergency response, that they wait to see if anyone is available, or able to get time off work so they can come to the fire station and wait to see if anyone else turns up, that might have the skills to turn out a fire truck and operate the equipment needed for the task? I don't believe that it is.

The reforms would ensure that whether it be a car accident or house fire or other emergency, there would be minimum of 7 fire professional fighters despatched.

Isn't that a marvellous thing? The public, when in need, gets the right number of fire fighters, with the right qualifications, responding to help.

Is it too much to expect?

These reform areas are only around the 35 integrated stations and only their primary areas. It does not affect volunteerism.

The community will be much better off without affecting the volunteer turn out.

Same as now, all volunteers in all the other areas outside of the primary areas of these 35 integrated stations will be exactly the same as they are now!

Also the volunteers within the integrated stations will still turn out the same as they do now.

On top of all that, the CFA gets a \$100,000,000 boost. (They don't get that now)

If the volunteers decide it is untenable to remain in the same station, the CFA will build or put the CFA brigade in their own station..

Remember the slogan, "Hands off the CFA". This is it. You got it.

Here is a perfect example of the proposed new system working the way it is intended.

Volunteers at Eltham fire station, last night voted to move the volunteers back to the old station.

That is a good thing. The reasons being; they get autonomy. So as a group, they decided it would be better for them to be able to stand alone. They still get to go to fires. They would still have their own fire truck. There is room there to place other fire trucks for the surge capacity.

That's how the reform is meant to work. If the CFA brigade can't work with the VFR station, one of the options is to have their own station.

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File1:

File2:

File3: