

Confidential

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

**Inquiry into the Firefighters's Presumptive Rights  
Compensation and Fire Service Legislation Amendment  
(Reform) Bill 2017**

I am George Pantazis

Volunteer Fire Fighter With Maiden Gully Fire Brigade which is under the banner of the Country Fire Authority, I have been a member as a volunteer for 35 years and hold Public Safety Certificate 4 in fire Supervision, I am a recipient of a National Fire Service Medal, National Medal and long service medal.

I live in Maiden Gully and work at Puckapunyal Military Base at Puckapunyal.

I am writing this submission in support of proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons.

It is important to have a guaranteed response of two fire appliances with at least of 7 firefighters to be dispatched within 8 minutes, as Maiden Gully is a Fully Volunteer brigade in the Bendigo area we as volunteers cannot guarantee a response of 2 appliances or even 1 appliance specially through the day.

Having a guaranteed response would mean a good support of Appliances and manning for the Maiden Gully Fire Brigade and Community, This would really support the Maiden Gully Fire Brigade and take the pressure of members who volunteer their services.

I am Certain employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect Volunteer turn outs or surge capacity, I as a Volunteer look forward for this new fire service as a great step forward for a great fire service here in Victoria to protect the community.

I am sure the Volunteer support would be maintained with operational firefighters operation Officers and Operational Managers being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA would not affect the volunteer support in CFA.

I am certain the reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with Volunteer Recruitment and retention across the CFA, and includes funding for Volunteer Station upgrades etc. which would immensely be a great support for Volunteers.

The impact of the ongoing industrial disputation has had a big effect on me and my family, it has been very stressful and dissatisfying in the past few years.

My son is at the age that he wants to become a volunteer and I am fearful of this dispute continuing further that may affect him.

We would love to see this dispute end and work with FRV and CFA towards a safe community for Victoria.

Yours Sincerely,

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George Pantazis

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