

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

1. I am Leading Fire-fighter Murray Scaife and have worked for the MFB for 31 years.
2. I live in Eltham North and work in Thomastown.
3. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:
  - As a fire-fighter it is imperative to ensure that the people sent to a call are qualified to complete the required tasks so that all fire-fighters can work in a safe environment.
  - Response times are crucial for Community safety and containing fires to their room of origin
  - Larger Communities on the urban fringe deserve a professionally staffed fire station to cater for increased callouts due to higher density residential areas.
  - The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – there will be no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response
  - This reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment
  - Having all career fire-fighting staff under the one banner will improve moral with professional staff and standardised the service the community's receive
  - The current environment has damaged fire-fighter moral at station level and has had a negative impact on many families
  - 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.

4. Below are examples from my experiences which demonstrate the failures of the current structure:

I attended a structure fire that required people in Breathing Apparatus to enter the structure. As part of the Greater Alarm Response System the call was raised to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm so that extra resources would be available to assist and relieve BA crews. As part of this response a CFA volunteer appliance was dispatched and took 15 minutes to get on scene. This meant that the crews on scene were left vulnerable for an extended period of time.

**Yours sincerely,**

Murray Scaife

