

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Matt Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 4:58 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Support For Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Matthew Wilson; I am currently a level 1 Fire-fighter within the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and have been employed with the CFA for approximately 11 months. I reside in St Kilda at present and work at the Springvale fire station where I have been placed since I finished my recruit course in December of 2016.

Before I was a Career Fire-fighter with the CFA I was a volunteer within the organisation and served 13 years as a volunteer and have now served 11 months as a career Fire-fighter. Having been a volunteer in the past it gives me a good understanding how both the career and volunteer systems work and very much the positives to come out of this reform.

I am writing this submission in support of this reform and to mention some benefits for both the volunteers and the staff members of the organisation some of these include:

- A minimum of 7 career Fire-fighters on the fire ground within designated Fire Rescue Victoria areas.
- One sole career organisation and one sole volunteer organisation.
- Volunteer turn outs and surge capacity won't be impacted by this reform.
- It will bring an end to industrial dispute.
- Volunteers will still have support from Operations Officers and Managers.
- Standardisation of career Fire-Fighter training.
- Volunteers won't be impacted by future EBA consultation like they believed they would be.
- It will remove animosity between volunteers and career Fire-Fighters.
- Career Fire-Fighters and volunteers will still be able to work together quite easily just under different organisations.
- Presumptive rights for both volunteers and career staff.

These are only some of the benefits to come out of this reform, there are still many more. I personally believe that these reforms will only enhance the capabilities and service to the community by both of these organisations.

I believe that the current fire service model has failed as it was designed in the 1950's. The expansion and population growth in outer metropolitan Melbourne and larger regional cities has increased dramatically since then. The fire service is yet to change with this increase.

I still have many friends and family who are volunteers across the state and they have expressed to me personally that they also believe that this reform is a good decision and it will only enhance the capabilities of both of these organisations going into the future.

Yours Sincerely,
Matthew Wilson
[REDACTED]

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS.

2017

FIRE AWARENESS AWARDS

Have you or someone you know, developed a great fire project in your community?

APPLY NOW

Entries close: 17 Sept 2017

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