

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 5:16 PM
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 Nicholas Shaw
[REDACTED]

Leading Firefighter
Country Fire Authority

[REDACTED] Road, Box Hill, Victoria, Australia
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern,

I have worked as part of an integrated fire service (country fire authority) for 6 years. I love my job and I will work as a firefighter serving the community until I retire. It's a fantastic career but it's a career that subjects me to risky situations that can harm myself and the crews that I work with. It is important that on the fireground we have the proper numbers of manning on scene as soon as possible to commence firefighting safely.

I work at Dandenong CFA. This brigade has volunteers as well as surrounding brigades that are 100% volunteer. For years we have worked together at jobs. Unfortunately demand over the years has increased with population and industry growth in the area. Dandenong simply isn't country like it was 50 years ago and time and time again we find ourselves short of manning at fire calls.

A lot of the time our surrounding volunteer brigades fail to respond leaving us short of manning at fire calls when manning is needed most. This is no fault of their own as these volunteers are all people with their own careers and commitments and the sheer number of calls Dandenong receives per year means that it's simply not possible for these volunteer brigades to attend all fire calls or get to these fire calls in a timely manor.

For far too long fire service boundaries have gone unchanged. Population growth has expanded a lot in the last 50 years and changes need to happen in order to provide the communities the fire service response they require. As a firefighter working for CFA it's important for my safety and my crew's safety to receive the guaranteed response we deserve so that we can return to our families safely at the end of a shift.

Volunteers play a vital role for Firefighting in country Victoria and provide a great service for their

communities in these regional areas. But Dandenong, Springvale, Greenvale, Hopper's Crossing, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Hallam, Frankston are all urban areas (that are still considered Country Victoria) with very high call rates per year and it's simply not realistic to expect volunteers to guarantee a response to all calls in these areas.

Please see the logic in this Fire Service reform. Please consider progressing forward with the times and ensure the community gets the fire service they deserve and that career firefighters like myself receive the guaranteed support we deserve at the fire calls we respond to every day.

I hope you make the right decision.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my submission .

Thanks. Kind regards,

Nick

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File1:

File2:

File3: