

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 5:25 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 Bronson Amos
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Dear Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 Committee members,

My name is Bronson Amos and I am a Firefighter for the CFA and have been with the CFA for 2 years. I live and work in Mildura, a regional city that has a large and growing residential area as well as large farms in surrounding areas and a light-industrial commercial area. Mildura is also the intersection of majoring trucking routes which increase the danger of both motor vehicle accidents and hazardous materials incidents.

My experience in Mildura has been unfortunate in regards to volunteers. Not only have they been openly hostile towards professional firefighters, they frequently attempt to undermine us through commenting in the local newspaper, holding an anti-professional firefighter rally and having a local journalist run a TV story on how bad professional firefighters are or on insulting us on social media. I'm very open to accepting constructive criticism because it helps me identify ways to personally and professionally improve however none of their insults are constructive nor even attempt to be.

I believe that lot of this hatred was driven by fear, purposefully spread by a volunteer who attempted to get into career firefighting however was unsuccessful and has taken his frustration out on professional firefighters ever since. It is volunteers like this, who run rampant throughout the organisation and go completely unchecked by management for fear of public backlash for disciplining volunteers as it's become a highly politicised issue, which are tearing open the divide between the two.

I believe the answer is to give the volunteers a service of their own, being a completely volunteer organisation with which they can have greater sense of identity and ownership over that organisation. They certainly made it clear that this is what they want with their Hands Off the CFA campaign.

Furthermore, having professional firefighters split over two organisations is also inefficient and doesn't make the most of running specialist training courses and enabling the sharing of information gained through real world experiences to improve our practices.

At the same time, I'm nervous about Fire Rescue Victoria because there are a lot of un-answered questions which may actually be personally detrimental to my job-security, pay rates and work place culture. However I still think this Bill needs to pass and these changes need to be made for the good of both the CFA and the MFB, the good of both volunteers and professional firefighters, and most importantly for the good of the community we all serve.

Kind regards,

Bronson Amos

--

File1:

File2:

File3: