



**Alistair Brooksby**  
**Captain**  
**Green Lake Fire Brigade**  
**Grahams Bridge Road**  
**HORSHAM VIC 3400**

5 July 2017

Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
 Department of the Legislative Council  
 Parliament House  
 Spring Street  
 EAST MELBOURNE. VIC 3002

**Proposed Fire Services Legislation Amendment and Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation**

As the Captain of the Green Lake Fire Brigade I am submitting this letter on behalf of the volunteer membership to the Fire Services Bill Select Committee.

The Green Lake Fire Brigade comprises 108 members who strongly express to the Committee their absolute dismay and frustration at the attempt by the Andrew's Government to make significant changes to the Fire Services Legislation without consultation with CFA members which is in clear breach of the CFA Act and the Volunteer Charter.

- Green Lake Fire Brigade volunteers and the wider community are feeling aggravated, anxious, undervalued and taken for granted. The views of volunteers within the Green Lake Fire Brigade should be heard, listened to and taken into consideration.

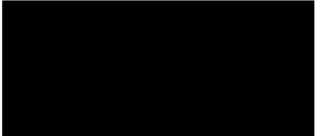
Due to the overwhelming lack of consultation, lack of transparency and lack of consideration the ramifications of such a significant change has seen brigade members' morale and self-worth suffer immensely. Membership in the long term could suffer therefore losing the surge capacity which is extremely necessary with our brigade being a diverse team situated on an extremely busy highway and where we also battle fast running grass and large forest fires.

- Green Lake Fire Brigade fears the inability of the Country Fire Authority to employ firefighting staff for Operational Roles in Rural Remote areas who have immense knowledge, experience and capabilities discriminates against volunteers and will create strong resentment within volunteer ranks. Recruitment of Operational Staff to Rural areas is particularly onerous and under the Fire Rescue Victoria model proposal it appears this will become even more so.
- The Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation singles out volunteers as second rate firefighters, who do not it appears warrant the same support and respect as those firefighters in Fire Rescue Victoria.

To include the Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation within the Proposed Fire Services Legislation Amendment shows complete disrespect and total disregard for the lives and sacrifice of volunteer firefighters.

The Fire Services Legislation Amendment and Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation are two separate issues and should therefore be dealt with as separate pieces of Legislation. Not used as a tool to achieve a discriminatory outcome.

The Green Lake Fire Brigade strongly opposes the proposed Fire Services Legislation Amendment in its current form. We feel it is disrespectful, degrading, discriminatory and harmful to the morale of the dedicated team of men and women in our brigade who volunteer at no cost to the State to save lives and property daily.

  
**ALISTAIR BROOKSBY**  
**CAPTAIN**  
**GREEN LAKE FIRE BRIGADE**