

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Leading Fire Fighter [REDACTED]

I am employed by CFA in district 14, I live in [REDACTED] and work at the Craigieburn fire Station.

I also currently Volunteer with CFA in Kinglake since 2015, prior to that I was a volunteer in North Warrandyte joining when I was 14 in 1983 and have been a volunteer for 34 years.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

CFA is a proud organisation that has protected country Victoria for many years. Victoria has long been working under a system that struggles to keep up with the demands of modern Victoria. The growth and spread of communities and suburbs, the hazards and risks of a booming population are putting a strain on the traditional volunteer. It used to be that only one adult was working in a household and businesses were happy for staff to leave work to attend callouts. Now both adults of the household need to work and for longer hours and business has changed. Staff can no longer leave work to attend calls. Domestic life also has more demands on time with both parents working and sharing the household chores we as a community have become time poor. As the urban sprawl continues, the demands on the CFA increases, with more callouts the ever before volunteer brigades can struggle to respond in a timely manner. It's no ones fault, people just don't have as much time anymore.

As Victoria changes all the essential services have to change with it. Matching the growth with the service delivery Victorians expect and deserve. The constraints of the MFB and CFA acts as they stand, that have worked well in the past, and were appropriate when written, are now failing to keep up and match the ever changing face of Victoria.

In my opinion, the successful protection of Victoria is not based on sticking to what we have always done, but based on an organisations ability to adapt. We need to evolve as the community around us evolves.

Simply, everything that governs us should be open to change. Removing the emotion, the pride and the ego from public discussions about the rolls of these organisations it's very easy to see what the best action is, as it is solely based on the delivery of a service to the community. Our role is simple, to protect lives and property of the people of Victoria, and the governance that we work under should facilitate this in the best possible way, not hinder it. It is not exempt from change, it is not more important to maintain its originality over the protection of the community or because of its historical standing that people cling too so dearly.

What I ask is that all the years of red tape and amendments or current Legislation that is not conducive to evolution and adaption is rewritten, reformed, streamlined and simplified to clear the way for us to do our job, protecting all Victorians.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]