

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

I am Qualified Firefighter [REDACTED], I live in Gisborne and work at Melton Fire Station.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services. These are my reasons:

- This will guarantee back up on the fire ground by dispatching a minimum two trucks with at least 7 Firefighters within 8 minutes. I think this will enhance both Firefighter and community safety, this allows appropriate tasking and back up on the fire ground.
- The community is guaranteed the appropriate response no matter what hour of the day. I have worked along side Volunteer Firefighters for 3 years with some great success, they are a vital part of the community. Understandably Volunteer Firefighters cannot guarantee an 8-minute response let alone a response at all with their own daily duties such as work and family commitments. I have responded to many emergency situations with 3 career Firefighters and no Volunteer Firefighters on the fire ground, this puts both Community and Firefighter safety at risk.
- The reform will only affect the 35 integrated stations primary response area, no effect on any other volunteer brigades or bushfire response throughout the state. The 35 primary response areas are now highly urbanised and high residential. Victoria is changing and we have to change with it.
- Volunteer support will be maintained with career Firefighters, OO's and OM's will be employed by FRV but continue to work with CFA. One Career Firefighter service will not affect Volunteer turnout or surge capacity.
- In my experience as a Firefighter I have witnessed how MFB and CFA operate, we are trained and operate so differently. This reform will assist with standardisation of career training, specialist response and overall response standards
- The reform will benefit Volunteer Firefighters as it has included a package to assist with Volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for Volunteer station upgrades.

Places such as Melton, Frankston, Eltham, Caroline Springs, Hoppers Crossing, Geelong, Dandenong and Point Cook are not country towns anymore. Population and infrastructure is ever growing, we must also grow to maintain standards.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]