

Fire fighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Submission to Select Committee

Damien Rayson

Fire Fighter

CFA

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My Background

My name is Damien Rayson. I am currently employed as a Fire Fighter of CFA, based at Patterson River Fire Station, in the outer Melbourne Metropolitan suburb of Carrum.

Experience

I commenced service with CFA on a recruit course in July 2015 and at the completion of this was stationed at Belmont Fire Brigade. As of May 2016 I took a position as a substantive Fire Fighter at Patterson River Fire Station.

Terms of Reference of the Select Committee

Impact on fire service delivery across Victoria:

From my time on station I have come across several instances where I feel this reform will be for the benefit of the community and for the benefit of all fire fighters.

One example of this was whilst working on night shift we were called to a support alarm. The primary appliance which was a volunteer appliance arrived on scene 2min after we arrived. This appliance was the brigade's 4WD car and was manned by a crew of two; one who was no longer physically operational due to age and the other was wearing wildfire gear.

Slow response time, inappropriate appliance with a non-compliant crew, physically unfit for operational duties, non-qualified for structural fire fighting. A primary appliance to this job should not have these issues and under this new reform I believe this would not happen. If this job was more than an alarm I would not be confident knowing that another crew cannot back me up in a structural fire fight or in a rescue operation.

The fire service reform will create a more effective and efficient response from a deeper and wider pool of highly qualified career fire fighters within one organisation.