

Kirra Vanzetti

From: BROWN, Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 12:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fire services Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Inquiry into the fire-fighters presumptive rights compensation and fire services legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017

My name is Tom Brown # 10829 and I am a qualified fire-fighter in the MFB. I have been an operational fire-fighter for nearly 5 years, currently working at Carlton Fire station. I have predominantly worked in the western suburbs and have spent time also attending calls with CFA permanent staff and volunteers at fringe MFB stations. I live in the Geelong region and travel to work in the MFB district.

My submission is in support of fire services reform bill.The impact on fire service delivery across Victoria

- MFB and CFA will have similar policies
- A better understanding of each other and have a “common language” on the fire ground
- Increased interoperability
- Streamlined gear/tools and training
- A far more efficient service for the community

Effect on volunteer engagement and participation in fire service delivery

- Volunteers will attend less frivolous calls, such as false alarms and small incidents
- More efficient surge capacity due to the above point
- Less costs to business when volunteers leave to attend calls
- Volunteers will have increased operational flexibility to make decisions impacting their brigades directly and will no longer be impacted by paid staff EBA discrepancies

Short and long term cost impact on fire service provision

- Cost to change from 2 services to one with re branding a short term cost
- Long term savings will include Reducing duplication, centralising management and policies
- Same equipment, operational models, training

Underlying policy rationale

- 60 years and no change to the MFB boundaries means that fire service delivery has not improved in built up areas
- This has become difficult for volunteers to turn out efficiently in built up areas due to traffic and in turn response times in these area are dangerously slow and at a cost to their workplace
- The 8-minute response 2 truck turnout will ensure that significant incidents are addressed quickly and safely, vast reducing damages and costs to the community and insurance companies

In summary, I have worked with many fire fighters with 25 years or more experience. It is very difficult for me to explain why the fire services reform should occur, but from all that I understand and have discussed with shift mates (CFA and MFB), the fire services reform will be a positive change for Victoria by delivering a far more efficient fire service for all Victorians.

Yours sincerely,

Qualified Firefighter Tom Brown
Carlton Fire Station | Central District | North West Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board
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