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Submission to the Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

Romsey & District Group of Fire Brigades provide a vital service to our many communities in the Southern area of District 2 and as such we are obligated to ensure that any change to the structure of the fire services is done to benefit all Victorians and not just a minority group.

Consultation with Volunteers will provide a better level of long term volunteer support and increase community safety to all Victorians.

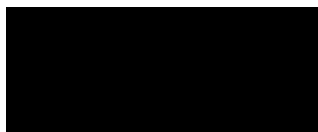
A key aspect of an inquiry should be that the Government agrees to formally engage with our state's volunteers and listen to what they have to say. There is a legal requirement of the Government to do this as it is set down in the Volunteer Charter, but it has not happened to date.

Not enough information has been provided by the Government in relation to things like future service delivery implications, long-term funding of CFA through the FSL, split fire services functionality, initial then long term costs, and many others.

Importantly, any restructure needs to enhance the very basics of volunteerism in Victoria and also our local communities as volunteering provides many social benefits, particularly to these communities.

It is essential that our politicians insist on an inquiry of the proposed fire services restructure before it goes further through Parliament.

Yours Sincerely



Richard Thornton

Secretary

Romsey & District Fire Brigades Group.