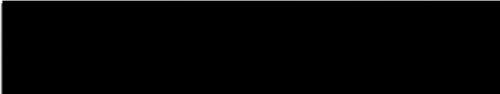


Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

From : Graeme East

  
Re: The Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation & Fire Services  
Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

To : The Honorable James Merlino MP & All Members of the Victorian  
Parliament.  
1 Treasury Place  
Melbourne Vic 3002

Dear Minister & Members,

As a Volunteer with the CFA for 48 years, I feel compelled to voice my concerns  
at this proposed Legislation.

- 1: Given that the Presumptive Cancer Compensation for Firefighters already  
has Bipartisan support, I see no good reason to link this with the proposed  
Reform Legislation. It is tantamount to Blackmail to suggest denying  
this Compensation which is already available to paid firefighters, as being  
conditional upon the success of this ill thought out Reform.
- 2: Grave Concern at the lack of consultation between government & CFA  
Volunteers as is required under the CFA Act & Volunteer Charter.
- 3: As a taxpayer, I feel there is not enough detail as to the actual monetary cost  
to the State and subsequently to be paid by the Taxpayers of Victoria.  
Particularly in locations where there are already Integrated Fire Stations,  
due to the possible need for the duplication of Resourcing where the  
work environment is no longer tenable between paid firefighters &  
volunteers.
- 4: A real possibility that if the proposed Reform is successful, a flow on effect  
will be a reduced need for attendance by Volunteers at the majority of  
incidents, thus resulting in a possible downturn in morale. This is a real  
concern amongst Volunteers, especially in Integrated Stations. It could result in a  
mass exodus of very experienced Volunteers.
- 5: Concern that if Volunteerism falls, what will happen during times of Campaign

6: To my knowledge, there has been no Enquiry conducted which suggests the *Need for this Reform. Which begs the question, WHY?*

As a footnote to this I would like to outline my experience as a Volunteer Firefighter, which I feel more than qualifies me to form a valid position on this issue.

Having been a Volunteer for 48 years, holding at various times, the following Positions within my Brigade & also other associated bodies, I feel that I could not, in good conscience go unheard.

Positions held as follows:

Brigade Captain (6 years)

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

Foreman

Brigade Chairman (current)

Member of Brigade Management Team

Brigade Representative for Group

Deputy Group Officer

President of VFBV District 11

Member DPC District 11

Member of DPC District 11 Ops Committee

Yours Faithfully,  
Graeme East