

**From:** Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017  
**To:** [LCSC](#)  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Mr Wade Smith  
[REDACTED]

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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To whom it my concern,

I would like to provide a submission to the upcoming Fire Service Reform Bill. I currently serve as a Qualified Fire Fighter at Sunshine Fire Station within the MFB. I believe the current MFB model for inner Melbourne is the model that needs to be adopted in all highly populated urban areas. As a member of the MFB I take for granted that a prompt responses will occur on all calls and that adequately skilled backup will only be moments away. I find it hard to believe from personal experience of working in the western suburbs that the last western MFB station is Laverton, where current urban sprawl has houses almost continually to and beyond Werribee. I believe people living in these areas need to be provided the same protection as those living within the MFB boundaries. I was personally a volunteer with the CFA for 4 years before joining the MFB. I understand the sacrifices all volunteers and their families make to protect our state. I do not believe that by merging the MFB and the permanent staff of the CFA that this will end volunteerism. I feel that in 2017 with the level of urban sprawl that has occurred, highly populated areas need to be protected by the current MFB model. The model currently being proposed is a win for all Victorians. We all pay the fire services levy and all deserve full coverage and adequate back up where required. I have been to several incidents involving MFB, CFA & CFA volunteers. On all occasions, my observations were that all parties worked together in a professional manner to overcome the task at hand. Unfortunately, I believe that relations between the organisations have been strained lately, but I am confident that this will be restored once the new organisation of FRV is formed. In fact, I believe the volunteer organisation will have every opportunity to flourish and become more independent and meaningful.

With another fire season quickly approaching, an opportunity for reform exists whereby an antiquated system of fire coverage can be vastly improved. The time is right and I believe all Victorians would be in favour of being fully covered by a modern, world class fire

service.

Yours Sincerely,

Wade Smith  
Qualified Fire Fighter  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade



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File1:

File2:

File3: