

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS  
COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
(REFORM) BILL 2017**

My name is Johnathan Greenwood and since January 2016 I've held the rank of a CFA level 2 fire fighter. My qualifications include, EMR, certificate 2 in first aid, Wildfire Behaviour and also a 19 week recruit induction. I'm currently stationed at Point Cook, and previous to that I spent a year in Warrnambool.

I'm writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services.

I grew up in Geelong and have seen firsthand how the boundaries of this once rural landscaped town have changed into highly urbanised communities. Population growth and infrastructure development has multiplied, yet the same CFA boundaries exist and haven't adapted to this ever changing environment.

To maximize the prevention of loss of life and minimize damage to property, fire services mandate a quick response by applying standards for their firefighters to respond to emergencies, with research highlighting that a fire must be suppressed within five to ten minutes of ignition. Leading into why safety is so important in the fire services industry. Safety for the community, my shift members, the general public, my family and myself. It is imperative to have at least 7 firefighters dispatched within 8 minutes as this response allows better protection for the community we serve and provides us with confidence that we will receive guaranteed support, promptly whilst holding the right qualifications and training. I want to know that when a brigade is dispatched, there will be competent BA users trained and skilled in suppression activities.

The damage this dispute has had on the morale of my workplace has taken a significant toll. Career firefighters have seen this as the best opportunity to form one workforce, employed by the same organisation and finally ending this dispute. The mental strain that it has had on my co-workers and myself has been very upsetting. My fiancé has noticed a change in myself and so that of my work colleagues with constant undermining and harassment both politically and in the media.

Forming one service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity, with support being maintained by operational firefighters employed by FRV but continuing their roles through arrangements with CFA. The reform areas are based around the 35

integrated brigades, and now being stationed in the highly urbanised Point Cook I am in no way sure of how this will affect volunteer brigades or bush fire response. In fact, this will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; including funding for volunteer station upgrades etc.

Right now is the time that we update our fire services to align with Victoria's growth and development.

Yours sincerely,

Johnathan Greenwood

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]