

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
Date: Friday, 7 July 2017 4:55:04 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Ms Amanda Rigoni
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Thank you for considering my comments/questions regarding the proposed restructure of the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

The rationale for combining presumptive cancer legislation with the separation of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) from Country Fire Authority (CFA) does not give each piece of legislation the opportunity to be evaluated and debated upon under its own merits - the bill should be separated to provide for clear/objective assessment of each matter.

Regarding the \$56.2 million CFA Support Fund for volunteer training/recruitment and improved health safety and wellbeing matters - will there be recurring funding available to continue programs established under this fund into the future? What will happen to the new training coordinators, volunteer sustainability officers, administration and support staff required for the rollout of these programs after the initial funds are spent? Training requirements for volunteers will be much higher due to the higher number of volunteers required at each brigade due to the part time nature of their service to CFA when compared with career fire fighters.

Training centres will remain in the possession of CFA, however, will trainers work for FRV? Who will be given priority for training courses? How will this be funded into the future?

Regarding the \$44million infrastructure fund for volunteer brigades in integrated stations which will be used to establish new facilities/equipment for volunteers wishing to separate from the career FRV stations - how far will this funding go across 35 sites, and how will the maintenance/upkeep of these additional assets be funded by CFA into the future? CFA currently has a minimal recurring maintenance allowance, will additional funds be allocated by Government for this purpose?

Is complete separation of FRV and CFA a possibility - with CFA retaining the 'option' of employing FRV staff via a tender process and/or recruitment process for Senior Executive

Officer arrangements for operational staff located in district headquarters?
Should there be a mandatory requirement for CFA to second FRV services as the bill currently proposes?

CFA must retain the power to suspend, remove or otherwise transfer any FRV officer deemed unfit or unsuitable for their role within CFA.

The CFA relies on volunteers and staff to work closely together and trust each other in a time of crisis, this has created a sense of 'family' - if this family does not have a voice in the who, how and when we open our arms to include a new member (in this case a leader for our family) these vital family bonds are damaged, if not severed beyond repair. Please consider the important detail which is currently missing from the proposed legislation, and which **MUST** be prepared in consultation with all family members before decisions and legislation are set in place - with details to be 'worked out later'....

Thank you for your time.

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File1:

File2:

File3: