

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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Paul Hardenberg
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern,

I have been an operational member of the MFB for the past 5 years and currently hold the rank of Leading Fire Fighter. I am currently located at Croydon Fire Station (FS26). Prior to becoming a fire fighter I was a police officer with Victoria Police for 11 years. In my time within the emergency services I have learnt that just because something has always been done or structured a particular way and worked doesn't mean that is the best way to achieve the desired outcome. To accomplish this, systems and structures need to be dissected and examined to ensure they are rebuilt in a way that provides a first class outcome for all stake holders. In this case the stake holders are the members of the Victorian community first and then fire fighters (career and volunteer) second. The CFA and MFB exist first and foremost to provide vital lifesaving service to the state of Victoria. I believe the Fire Services Reform is required to provide the Victorian community the best possible available. One of the main things that need to be looked at are assignment rules and boundaries. There should be no hard line boundaries determining which station responds, it needs to be based on which station can get where in its allocated time frame with a guaranteed response. This response needs to include minimum guaranteed despatch of 7 fully operational fire fighters.

During my time as a police officer it was extremely important for me to set aside my emotions when investigating a matter and only look at the facts in front of me regardless of whether I liked them or not. The Fire Services Reform is no different, there will only be a successful outcome if emotions and politics are put aside and only the facts are taken into account.

Regards,
Paul HARDENBERG

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File1:

File2:

File3: