

## **FIRE SERVICE REFORM LEGISLATION SUBMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION**

By email: [LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

1. We are 'C' Platoon South Warrandyte CFA

- Senior Station Officer Adrian Doe (17 year service)
- Leading Fire Fighter Andrew Reis (10 year service, plus 12 years ADF)
- Fire Fighter Peter Whitham (3 year service)
- Fire Fighter James Munro (3 year service)
- Fire Fighter Ben Jones (1 year service, plus 21 years VICPOL)

We are employed full time by the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

**2. We live in Warranwood, Ringwood East and Montrose and work in South Warrandyte.**

**3. We also volunteer in our community at local school groups, kinder groups and charity groups.**

**4. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services. I have divided my evidence into sections relevant for your terms of reference:**

- **Impact on fire service delivery across Victoria**
  - We believe the proposed legislation will have no immediate impact on fire service delivery at all. It will however enable both CFA and FRV to enhance and redesign aspects of service delivery. Current response arrangements are out dated and cumbersome to alter. Our safety at our chosen profession is far too often placed at risk under current arrangements. Without the support of this legislation to evolve our service delivery, our safety and therefore our ability to protect the community is being placed at risk.
- **Effect on volunteer engagement and participation in fire service delivery**
  - We firmly believe that the proposed legislation will enhance our ability to engage and train with volunteer members. Currently we are very restricted in our ability to train off site. With the amalgamation of CFA career and MFB resources, we will have the ability to go to other stations/ locations to provide/ participate in training.
  - Volunteer's time is valuable and the proposed legislation acknowledges that. A volunteer member who is involved to protect the community will have a greater ability to do so. Currently CFA volunteer members at integrated stations may not feel their time and effort is appreciated. Under the legislation the volunteer

brigade is able to return to its community based roots without the workload that has been imposed on them by the vastly expanded urbanised areas.

- **Short term and long term cost impact on fire service provision**
  - The cost implications of this legislation appear to be complex at first. However on further reflection I believe that the cost of providing a world class fire service in our state will in effect reduce.
  
- **Underlying policy rationale**
  - The 35 areas planned to transition from CFA to FRV are now highly urbanised.
  - The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc.
  - Guaranteed response in these areas means guaranteed community safety and protection
  - Employing all career fire-fighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity
  - Volunteer support will be maintained with operational fire-fighters (OO's OMs etc. being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)

Yours sincerely,

- Senior Station Officer Adrian Doe
- Leading Fire Fighter Andrew Reis
- Fire Fighter Peter Whitham
- Fire Fighter James Munro
- Fire Fighter Ben Jones

