



Arthur Haynes [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission Operations Officer
Haynes

Hello Consultation Committee

Please find attached a submission to the Parliament Select Committee, Fire Services reform.



Arthur Haynes Operations Officer District 08
OIC Hallam Fire Brigade– 12-14 Belgrave- Hallam Road Hallam Vic
3803
City of Casey catchment

[REDACTED]
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Arthur Haynes
Operations Officer
Hallam Fire Brigade
12-14 Hallam Belgrave Rd.
Hallam 3803

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Arthur Haynes
I am an Operations Officer
Employed by the Country Fire Authority
I have been a firefighter for 33 years

I live in Tyabb on the Mornington Peninsula and work at the Hallam Fire Station.

My role is the Officer in Charge of the Hallam Fire Brigade.
I am responsible for the City Of Casey and the eleven Fire Brigades within this Municipality. I also have responsibilities within District 08 inside Southern Metro Region.

I am writing this submission outlining concerns of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons.

➤ Integration

Long before I commenced my employment with CFA Integrated Brigades existed within the organisation. Integration relied on both the volunteers and the staff working as a team to ensure the numbers on the fireground were correct. Integration today has stations with a minimum of four staff on shift. These numbers are enough to manage over 90% of the fire calls received by brigades. This number of staff alleviates the requirement of volunteers to respond as there is no role for them. This view has been gained over the all my years as a firefighter, Officer, Manager in integrated Brigades.

➤ Career Staff supporting Volunteers

A number of the current integrated stations support well outside their primary response area to support neighbouring CFA volunteer Brigades. There is a shortage of volunteers during working hours Monday to Friday at a number of locations, and this “hub and spoke” type support is growing within CFA. Under the reforms there will be a requirement to have seven staff on the fireground. Can support well out of a brigade’s primary area be achieved given the reforms?

➤ FRV growth

Then independent committee that will recommend the growth of FRV in current areas serviced by Volunteer brigades. There are a number of Brigades in CFA that are performing at a higher call rate than a number of our current Integrated Stations. These brigades will not be masters of their future and plans need to be in place so as we do not sacrifice the contribution and efforts these members have given their communities.

➤ CFA officers

CFA as a volunteer organisation needs to be supported by CFA Officers. Operations Officers up to the Chief Officer must be CFA employed Officers. Volunteers need to know that their best interests are being catered for.

CFA Officers perform the role of manager, mentor and friend to our members, and these relationships are required to remain to ensure the volunteer based organisation can continue to survive.

➤ Reform

There is no doubt that reform in the fire services is needed, but is the reform in the current package being presented to government the appropriate reform? More time and thought has to be given to this issue to ensure the right decisions are made in the right time line to ensure the right protection for the Victorian community.

The Chief Officer of CFA must be a part of the reform decision making process.

Once this proposed reform has been instigated, there will be no going back, as the damage will be done.

Yours sincerely



Arthur Haynes