



[REDACTED]  
07/07/2017 05:36 AM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Submission for the Fire Services  
Reform Select Committee

To Whom It May Concern

Please find attached my submission for the Fire Services Reform Select Committee. As detailed within my submission I wish for my name and contact details to remain confidential.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

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By email: [consultation@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:consultation@dpc.vic.gov.au)

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

1. I am;

- [REDACTED]
- Station Officer and Country Fire Authority (CFA) Road Rescue Coordinator.
- Employed by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for 9 years.
- Qualified
  - Heavy Rescue operator
  - Teleboom operator
  - Ladder Platform operator
  - Heavy HAZMAT operator
  - CBR (Chemical, Biological, Radiation) technician
  - Level 3 Planning Officer
  - Level 3 Logistics Officer
  - Level 3 Situation Officer
  - Fire Behaviour Analyst
  - Strike Team Leader
- Awarded
  - National Medal
  - National Emergency Medal
  - 20 year service award
  - Honorary Brigade Life Member Dromana Fire Brigade

2. I live in Rosebud and work in CFA District 8.

3. I have been deployed operationally both interstate and internationally to assist other fire agencies.

4. CFA is my third fire service having previously been employed as a private industry Firefighter with Transfield Fire & Rescue (1999 – 2005) based at HMAS Cerberus and as an Aviation Firefighter with Aviation Rescue & Fire Fighting service (2005 – 2008) based at Melbourne Airport.

5. I also volunteer in my community with Dromana, where I commenced my service with CFA in 1994. In my capacity as a volunteer with Dromana, I have served as a Lieutenant for 8 years (1996 – 2004) and a Captain for 4 years (2004 – 2008).

6. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

- The legislation will provide career and volunteer firefighters who work within hazardous environments, in the service of others for the purpose of protecting life and property, with an ability to access compensation for work related cancers contracted as a result of this service.
- The reform will allow CFA to operate as the current Act (Country Fire Authority Act 1958) requires. The current Act only allows for Volunteer and Permanent Brigades, it has no provision or definition for an “Integrated Brigade”.
- The reform will allow for independent review of response areas to ensure the community receives the fire service response standards that are required. As an Officer in Charge of a volunteer brigade it was my experience, that it is a constant battle to ensure that sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified operators are available to meet the requirements of the modern fire service. This was especially true during high fire danger days where it is extremely important to ensure crewing of all appliances (Pumper, Tanker and Rescue) on station. To ensure sufficient fire coverage we utilised the skills and availability of our neighbouring brigade which has career staff on duty.
- The reform will allow all career firefighters to be employed by one emergency service. This provides great opportunity for Victoria to increase the operational efficiency in emergency response through combining collective knowledge and effort in improving operating processes, equipment, training and response.
- The reform will allow the Victorian Fire Service community to move forward to a positive future. The current environment within the fire service is polluted, with political propaganda and agenda. The constant attacks upon career firefighters by media outlets has left many discouraged and disillusioned. My personal experience has been that of withdrawal, depression and shame as a result of these constant attacks. The reform offers the opportunity for the fire service community to develop a positive future.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I REQUEST THAT MY NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS REMAIN PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.