



Bryce Frohn [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Yes to - Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

Inquiry into the Fire Fighters presumptive rights compensation and fire service legislation amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

I am Leading Fire Fighter Bryce Frohn, currently employed by The Country Fire Authority where I have spent 8 and half years as a Fire Fighter working across both District 14 and District 8.

I live in the suburb of Mentone and currently work at Springvale Fire Station.

There are many reasons as to why I believe this reform is not only much needed, but long overdue. In this submission I will just cover briefly why I believe it is needed. I'm sure you will receive many submissions going into the finer details.

Most importantly this reform will modernize the fire services of Victoria making it a more adaptable service for the ever changing landscape that is Victoria.

The reform will make the operating environment for fire fighters safer across the board, as we will have that much needed support at all times in those critical life or death situations we find ourselves in daily.

The community will get a better standard of service delivered on a consistent basis, which at the moment isn't always happening due to the growing demand on volunteers in built up areas.

I for one have been to many calls in my time spent working for the CFA, in which there has been a question mark on whether or not the support we require so critically will be coming or not. I'm sure you can appreciate at these times, we as Fire fighters would much rather be thinking about the task at hand, not having to worry about will our support be coming.

The environment that Fire fighters operate in is becoming ever more dynamic, with the growing rise in high density living, i.e. apartment buildings and complex structures, the need for qualified competent support is now more than ever critical, to not only create a safe working environment for Fire Fighters but provide an adequate response for the public.

I could go into specific details on calls I have been to that highlight the current deficiencies and issues as I have mentioned previously, although I don't think that will serve the purpose of what I wanted to achieve in making this submission. I have made my point and said what I wanted and I'm sure you can gain an appreciation of what I'm trying to convey.

This is not a slur at volunteers, as I have many great friends and colleagues at the Springvale Fire Brigade and the broader CFA community, who do a tremendous job within the CFA volunteering their time and will continue to do so within the CFA into the future even if this reform is brought in. It is just unrealistic to expect them to be able to shoulder a work load consistently, that is ever increasing. Many of these volunteers have expressed these exact sentiments to me. My point is, this reform is well over due to bring much needed change to the fire services within Victoria and ensure Fire Fighter safety is maintained, our ability to protect life and property to a high standard is maintained, along with the community having the best possible service delivered as it deserves and pays for.

Kind regards

**Bryce Frohn Leading
Firefighter**



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lives and
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