



Greg Bawden [REDACTED]

07/07/2017 01:20 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Submission

1 attachment



Greg Bawden Submission.pdf

Dear Committee Members

Please find attached my submission to the Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.

If you require any further explanation or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or by return email.

Regards,

Greg Bawden

Gregory Bawden



7 July 2017

Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Via email: consultation@dpc.vic.gov.au

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members,

Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

I am a retired Assistant Chief Fire Officer (**ACFO**), with the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (**MFB**).

I was employed by the MFB for approximately 41 years and held the rank of ACFO and its historical equivalents for approximately 23 years. I retired in May 2015.

I hold the following specialist qualifications and awards:

- Tertiary fire service academic qualifications
- Attended national senior executive development courses for Police and Emergency Services
- Attained various fire service vocational technical qualifications
- Australian Fire Service Medal (2001)
- National Medal
- Good Conduct and Long Service Medal

I support the proposed fire services reform and I believe that the reform would strengthen Victoria's fire services and the physical and mental wellbeing of firefighters and their families.

If the proposed reform was adopted, it would provide career opportunities and mobility for firefighters to move from Melbourne to regional areas of Victoria covered by FRV and for regional FRV firefighters to move to Melbourne. This would heighten the fire agencies' ability to provide skilled firefighters and teams to service the State of Victoria and national and international needs.

Command structures and language would be aligned to enhance command and control understanding. This will provide a safer fire ground and community.

The reform contributes to an economy of scale which has been difficult to achieve through separate agencies. This would enable the standardisation of equipment across career firefighters and also assisting in increased purchasing power, aligned training and operational procedures and resources.

Duplicated administrative structures could be reviewed to establish efficiencies.

The reform will allow career firefighters in the State of Victoria to further develop professional competency and expertise in required areas of specialisation including managing hazardous material incidents, chemical, biological and radiological incidents, terrorism incidents, administering legislation in relation to structural fire safety, hazardous material facilities and hazard mitigation, fire origin and cause, wide ranging industry research activities, urban search and rescue, high angle rescue, heavy rescue, trench rescue, industrial rescue, confined space rescue, marine response, air operations, and emergency medical response.

In ever expanding urban environments, regional and metropolitan, the risks are the same and require a consistent homogenous approach to service delivery where like risk deserves like service for the community and the welfare of firefighters.

I support the fire service reforms and strongly encourage the Select Committee members to support the Bill.

Yours sincerely,


Gregory Bawden, ASFM