



Dean Manson [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 05:07 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Reform Submission

Please see attached submission



Dean Manson Operations Manager District 6
District 6 H/Q 115 Bromfield St Colac, Vic 3250



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submission to select committee june 2017.docx

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

Dear Member of Parliament

My name is Dean Manson, Operations Manager with the Country Fire Authority currently working in District 6, Colac. I have been employed by the CFA for over 27 years and previously a volunteer with Norlane Fire brigade between 1986 and 1989.

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

The ongoing dispute between the parties (UFU, VFBV, CFA and MFB) has gone on far too long and is now affecting the health, welfare, morale and livelihoods of fire fighters, both career and volunteer. I believe the reform will address most of the issues driving these factors.

The efficiency gains from flattening out the management arrangements that exist currently, is an opportunity created by the reform.

Most of the volunteers I talk to in my district believe it is a needed and would welcome CFA returning to a Volunteer service without the need to negotiate with an industrial body on everything. This is contrary to the position of Volunteers Fire Brigade Victoria who are engaged to represent volunteer views. I have had volunteers tell me that VFBV are not representing their view on this matter.

These changes are well overdue in my opinion and offer more opportunity than danger. The reform will see an increase in service delivery and public safety as well as safety for fire fighters.

Reform provides an opportunity to improve and build on flexibility within the emergency management sector.

Sets up the organisations to become truly modernised within a rapidly changing world and align Victoria with other states fire services.

CFA will maintain its volunteer ethos and identity.

As an affected employee of CFA I will still be able to work and provide leadership to the brigades, post the reform, as I do now.

Presumptive legislation is long overdue for fire fighters.

To say that surge capacity will be affected by the changes is insulting to the Volunteers in district 6 that have always supported other areas when required including interstate. Our volunteers will answer the call when needed.

Yours Faithfully

Dean Manson

CFA Operations Manger District 6

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