



"HAMMOND, Wayne"

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Firefighters Presumptive Rights

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Wayne Hammond, Leading Fire Fighter in the MFB. I have been employed as a fire fighter for over 33 years, work involving road rescue, emergency medical response (EMR) and more recently in training at the new complex at VEMTC Craigieburn, working with CFA Instructors and CFA recruits. I am currently preparing for my position, as an Instructor on the new Victorian Recruit Fire Fighter Course.

I currently live in Airport West, this area is covered by full time employed fire fighters due to the risk and time that this suburb has been established.

I support the reform of the fire services, and have seen the importance of a minimum of 7 fire fighters and 2 trucks, not only for the protection of the community and assets, but also for the safety of the fire fighters providing this service. We have seen the rapid growth for the state of Victoria, and with this growth sees the urgent need to bring our fire service up to date to reflect the needs of our community. Our roads are now extremely busy, this is also impacting on the service that we provide, and that our community expect. We have areas that are heavily populated and they do not have the protection that they not only expect, but demand and deserve. Pressures on modern families with regard to high costs to raise families, mortgages on houses etc, mean that people, who have volunteered in these areas in the past, must work to provide their incomes and should not be expected to provide coverage that should be provided by full time fire fighters. The volunteers will still be there when they are needed and able to attend, but the brunt of the community protection in high growth and high risk areas can no longer be ignored.

The modern and growing state of Victoria needs a modern and growing Fire Service to protect and serve it. How many commissions into the reforming of the Victorian Fire Services need to be ignored, before our Governments will act on the recommendations? The reform is a must! I have seen this during my 33 years serving the community as a professional fire fighter. One professional fire fighting

service will not only be more efficient in the way it works, but also more cost effective for the community it serves.

Our state will always need their volunteer fire fighters! They also will benefit from this reform with better equipment etc. and better support.

It is time to act! It is long, long overdue!

Regards

Wayne Hammond | Leading Firefighter
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