



Steve Magdis

06/07/2017 03:28 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
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Subject INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS'
PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE
SERVICES LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is Steve Magdis and I am a level 1 Fire Fighter, employed by the Country Fire Authority.

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

As a resident of the suburb of Hurstbridge, I am encouraged by the proposed restructure and the positive impact that it will have on service delivery / fire protection to my community. Like much of outer metropolitan Melbourne, Hurstbridge is a growing community with a large population of young families such as my own. Hurstbridge is currently covered by a CFA Volunteer response and it is likely that this will not change under the proposed reform. What will change is, improved funding, clear autonomy and improved levels of training to my local volunteer brigade.

Fire Fighter safety. It is vital that Professional and Volunteer Fire Fighters have guaranteed backup. Knowing that at least two trucks with a minimum of seven fire fighters will be responded to an incident is vital for the safety of all fire fighters.

As a relatively new career fire fighter, I continually hear of critical incidents where colleagues arrive on the scene of a fire as the sole appliance, not knowing if a volunteer appliance will respond or not. Commencing a primary search for casualties or conducting an internal fire attack is a potentially dangerous and life threatening practice, so it is vital that fire fighters have the guaranteed support of a second appliance crewed by qualified personnel. Currently we, as career fire fighters do not have this guarantee and therefore are being placed in potentially dangerous and life threatening situations simply due to an outdate fire service model.

As a husband and father of two, it is extremely concerning that my and other fire fighter's safety is and will be compromised in similar situations. It is understandable and foreseeable that Volunteers cannot respond 100% of the time, however I find it alarming that in 2017 my workplace safety is compromised due to a compromised and out-dated fire service model. The effect this dispute has had on my personal/ family life has been significant. The role of a professional fire fighter was once seen as an honourable and decent profession, however the continued attacks on my profession have added to the stress of an already demanding career. The proposed fire service reform will at last provide clarity and continuity to the roles of both career and volunteer fire fighters and enable both groups to regain the trust and respect of the

Victorian community.

Ultimately, the community want and need a fast and professional response to emergencies.

They are currently receiving an inconsistent response which is solely dependent on what area of urbanised Victoria you may live. It is my hope that the select committee is able to look at the facts and make recommendations in support of the proposed fire service reforms.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Magdis

