



Steve Martin [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Steve Martin

I am a Leading Fire Fighter based at South Morang Fire Station , I am employed by the CFA. I have been a Fire Fighter within the CFA for Six and a half years , during this time I have worked at Patterson River, Cranbourne, South Morang and VEMTC Craigieburn . I have many skills and qualification that assist me on a daily basis, to help protect the community . I have trained very hard with in my time at CFA and approach my role very professionally , I have specialist skills in EMR and certificate IV in training and assessment . I received a commendation for the work I did in producing a pre-plan for the Victorian Desalination plant .

I live in Yarra Glen and work in South Morang , on many occasions I have heard the community sirens in Yarra Glen alarming the township of a fire call /incident, only to wait many minutes past the SDS response timeframe for an appliance to roll out the door .

This is particularly alarming when I leave home to protect the township of South Morang and hope that if my family needed an emergency response would they get it ? Would it be in a timely manner? Would they have the correct skills mix to deal with any situation ? Would it arrive at all?

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

- As a Leading Firefighter it is important to have guaranteed backup - guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes.
- The response will be better for community safety and protection of life and property , we will be able to grow as the community grows . Add additional stations as the population or call rates require without "entering turf wars" under the current system .
- Employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity. Volunteers will still have access to training and Fire Stations .
 - Volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters (OO 's O M s etc being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)
- That the reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response area has no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response .
 - The 35 areas are now highly urbanised – high residential and other risks such as schools , hospitals, event centres need quick and guaranteed response .
- The reform will assist with standardisation of career training / specialist response/response standards and equipment. This is it is better to have all career staff being employed by one fire service.
- The damage the disputation in the workplace has had on South Morang is a major concern . Members have resigned from positions and relationships have been damaged to a point of no return. Many employees have left the station and a very high rate of staff turnover has

occurred in a short timeframe. The additional strain that it has had on my family and I is unnecessary and unsatisfactory from my employer, initially with very little support from the corporate structure and upper management, this has improved with recent changes.

- The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades. This is a MUST as the ageing population of the volunteer members is a massive concern for me.

Thank You for taking the time to read my story and hopefully you can understand my perspective.

Yours sincerely,
Steve Martin

Steve Martin Leading Firefighter - HSR.

South Morang Fire Station – 875 Plenty Rd, South Morang, VIC 375

T: [REDACTED]

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