

"Never Ever Give In"

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Dear Assistant Clerk Committees.docx

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

My Name is Tom Balfour-Glassey, Qualified Firefighter working on A shift at CFA's Melton Fire Station. I have been employed with CFA now since February 2011 but prior to that started my service as a volunteer at Portland Fire Station in 2004 subsequently transferring to Torquay and Lara fire brigades, Inside that time I moved to Sydney for a short period and spent that time as a volunteer with NSW RFS, and also working as a Project fire fighter employed by the then DSE. I have dedicated basically my entire adult life to the fire services. My service to the fire brigade has taken its toll on my mental health, family, and physical health this being made even more difficult in recent years with the constant and ruthless attacks on my profession, attacks stemming from the Victorian Liberal Party, Federal Liberal Party and VFBV have lowered moral on fire stations state wide to a level I have never seen before.

I am in full support of the proposed reforms and the presumptive rights legislation being tabled before the parliament and the committee. I see no adverse effects to the existing volunteer system, communities or fire protection throughout Victoria as a result of these reforms. These reforms to the fire services will ensure my safety, the safety of my colleagues, and improve service delivery to the rapidly growing state of Victoria allowing for a new, improved and modernised fire service model to benefit the communities we so passionately protect.

In closing I wish to thank you for taking the time to read this, and once again reiterate my full support for the legislation tabled before you.

Sincerely,

Tom Balfour-Glassey