



**Jarrod McNally** [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 04:08 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

Please see my attached submission to the Fire Services Reform Select Committee

Regards,



**Jarrod McNally FF**

Mildura Fire Station – 326 San Mateo Avenue Mildura Vic 3500

T: [REDACTED] F: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED]

This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it



immediately from your system. Dear Assistant Clerk Committees.docx

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

I am Qualified Fire-fighter Jarrod McNally with the Country Fire Authority. Where I have served for 6+ years. In my role as a fire-fighter I have gained the qualifications in bushfire/wildfire fire-fighter and urban and wildfire structure fire-fighter. I have also gained specialist qualifications of:

- Steep Angle Rope Operator
- High Angle Rope Operator
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- CFA Aerial Pumper - Drive & Operate

I live in Mildura and work at Mildura Fire Brigade.

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

The proposed reform is desperately needed as growth around outer metro Melbourne and regional cities has expanded so much over the years. This has presented a number of problems for volunteers to effectively respond to emergency incidents. These include:

- Increased travel time for Volunteers working further from home location, delaying the response of appliances.
- Increased density and higher risk levels. The incidents are becoming more complex and are beginning to present bigger risk to fire-fighters responding and members of the public involved in incidents.
- Higher incident number per year. This is demanding more time and a bigger commitment from volunteer members, this interferes with the relationship of employees who volunteer and employers. Employers are unable to afford to give volunteers time to attend incidents as call rates rise.

- Greater requirement for specialist response skills. These may include HAZMAT, Trench Rescue or Road Accident Rescue, with each skill set require an increased time commitment for skill maintenance. These roles are more complex and therefore require a lot more training to effectively provide specialist response.

As a result of these and other factors volunteer stations have been increasingly unable to meet their service delivery standards. This is no fault of the volunteers themselves but purely a reality which we face given the changes to the state of Victoria over the years.

This reform is purely aimed at assisting the stations in the regional centres and outer metro Melbourne in delivering a modern day service to the community of Victoria. When you look at the response structure and the changes if the reform is passed, it is clear that no volunteer station anywhere will have a lesser capability to respond. A fully staff station will only be required once it the fully independent Fire District Review Panel review the evidence and makes an assessment for the best delivery model for that particular area.

Currently in Mildura we are the only staffed station for 400+kms. We have a number of fully volunteer station that have done and continue to respond to the rural area extremely well. They are evidence as to why a volunteer service is effective and often the most appropriate service for that area. The Mildura area is more urbanised than the surrounding area and the city's population in over 4 times what it was in 1966. The brigades surrounding the Mildura Fire Brigade are increasingly unable to meet their service delivery standards. The members do everything they can to provide a response but for the reasons I have listed previously the fact is they cannot provide the service needed in the area.

Outside of the Mildura primary area we routinely attend incidents/structure fires with only 3 fire-fighters on scene. This puts the safety of the responding personnel at risk but also limits the response capability. We are to protect life and property, but we cannot effectively do this with current arrangements and it is the public which are impacted as well as the undermanned fire-fighters responding. With greater structure around staffing levels under Fire Rescue Victoria this would protect the members that respond to these incidents and

allow fire-fighters to more effectively combat incidents in the urban areas. The public are the ones who will benefit from the increased level of protection.

In no way are these reforms an attack on volunteers and the role they play within the CFA. Any person that is employed or volunteers is focused on providing the best level of service to their community. Ultimately this is what the proposed reform is about, the service to the community. The details have been twisted, misunderstood and deliberately distorted to create the confusion and hysteria around the reform. I ask you to consider all the information put in front impartially and I know you will inevitably see the benefit of the proposed reform.

Yours Sincerely,

QFF Jarrod McNally

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.