



Kevin Cummins

06/07/2017 09:33 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Service Review

1 attachment



fire Submission docx.docx

To Fire Services reform select Committee.

This is my submission to be considered by the Fire Service reform committee and treated in confidentiality.

Regards

Kevin Cummins,



Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Kevin Cummins I am a Station Officer with the MFB and have been a full-time firefighter for 30+ years. I am currently stationed at Carlton on A Platoon and have worked at this station for 12 Months. Prior to this, I have largely worked in the Southern and Eastern Zone stations, some of which respond with volunteer only CFA stations and also integrated CFA stations.

I used to live in inner Melbourne, my family and I was very fortunate to have the full service of the MFB (fire response, EMR ect.) as a resident if needed. Since moving out of inner Melbourne and into a bayside suburb 30ks from central Melbourne which is covered by the CFA volunteers, I am paying more in the fire levy for a service, I feel doesn't meet my expectations and the expectations of the rapidly expanding population, the growth of communities and manufacturing businesses areas we live in.

I am in full support of the proposed fire services reforms and these are some of the reasons why.

- Firefighters presumptive rights Compensation for Paid and volunteer firefighters
- Safety of the community with quicker response times (8 minutes) for fires and Medical response, which the majority of CFA volunteer stations don't do.
- Safety of the responding fire service personal (7 on the fire ground)
- Fire service Boundaries haven't changed in over 50+ years
- Population growth over the next decade. (Herald Sun) 6.1 million with an annual growth rate of 2.1%. 8 Million by 2051
- CFA becomes fully volunteer with increase in funds for training and equipment
- More employment opportunities for females and males in country areas with FRV as full time firefighters and administration staff
- Ending the bitter EB agreement for both fire services
- Increasing moral of the firefighters and their families
- No negative impact on CFA volunteer rural fire stations
- Fairer fire levies for all Victorians.
- Surge capacity won't be affected in fact it will increase reliability and better co-ordination of the responding fire services.

CFA volunteers play a very important part in our rural firefighting capacity. Each time I am turned out as part of a strike team to rural areas for major bushfires (Black Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 which I had a part in) I was and still willing and happy to support

them and work with them in any capacity. These reforms have no impact on the volunteer service (in fact they include features to assist with recruitment, retention and funding) and all to do with better protecting Victoria.

Finally, I want to convey to the Committee the emotional toll this ongoing dispute has had on both my colleagues and me. What began as an EBA negotiation has turned into a public, politically-driven agenda with little regard for the major issue at hand – public safety. When making your recommendations and vote, please make this your deciding factor.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Cummins

Station Officer and Proud FireFighter