



Kieran Fitzgerald

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission to Select Committee

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

In reference to the **Inquiry Into the Firefighters Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Legislation Amendment (reform) Bill 2017** I would like to make the following submission :

I am a professional firefighter with the MFB and as such have made it a priority to look into the issues surrounding this bill.

I work in Richmond and live in South Yarra, however like many Victorians due to the rising cost of property in the inner city coupled with the urbanization of the outer suburbs and regional centers have decided to purchase a property with my young family down in Torquay however a significant issue presents itself in this decision. Namely that whilst my house will be in medium to high density housing I will not be entitled to the same Firefighting response that I currently am despite paying the same Fire Services Levy. In my opinion this is grossly inadequate and is not reflective of the changing needs of the Victorian electorate. Furthermore the effect that this legislation will have on volunteer fire services has been massively overplayed. In no way will this effect the valuable job that volunteers play in the community nor there ability to respond to emergencies as needed. The only change will be that there is a guaranteed professional response. This change is vital for us as professional fire fighters allowing us to respond to a situation knowing that we have a guaranteed response regardless of time or location.

Yours Sincerely

Kieran Fitzgerald

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]