



Leigh Barclay [REDACTED]

07/07/2017 04:10 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

Please accept my submission for the fire services reform that is attached.

Regards,



Leigh Barclay Technician

CFA Business Services - State PPE&C Management Centre
116-120 O'Briens Road, Corio, Vic 3214

[REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



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Submission.docx

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Leigh Barclay. I am employed with the Country Fire Authority as a Technician at the State personal protective equipment and clothing management centre. I have been working here for 8 years.

I live in community of Lara with my partner and 2 children.

I also volunteer in my community at Lara Fire Brigade with 23 years' service and have been awarded the National Medal

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

Reasons why as a firefighter that it is important to have guaranteed backup - guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes.

With the growth of my community of Lara that has occurred of recent times I believe it is important to improve support in to the township of Lara. Many areas of the Lara community are now too large and are "out of reach" of the Lara Fire brigade to make an acceptable response time.

With the increasing size of the community I believe the community and volunteers of Lara fire brigade deserves more support into the area. As the community of Lara develops, it will put an increasing work load onto the volunteers of Lara.

How employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity

I believe employing all career firefighters under one fire service will greatly improve volunteer retention as the CFA fire Brigades will keep their own identities and the decisions on how each brigade is managed will be kept with the volunteers with each brigade.

Having all staff employed under one organization will also benefit standardization of all equipment and training.

That volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters (OO's OMs 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 areas – no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response

The 35 areas are now highly urbanised – high residential and other risks

The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc

The recent dispute has had a great strain on my family and me. With my role as a CFA employee and as a volunteer and have found it increasingly difficult to perform my job and serve as a volunteer as it has caused me a great amount of stress.

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 etc

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Peter Barclay

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