

Tom Walter [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 09:36 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Greenvale Fire Brigade Submission

Hi,

Please see the attached submission to the select committee on 'the restructuring of Victoria's fire services as contemplated by the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017'.

Regards,

Tom



Tom Walter Firefighter
Greenvale Fire Station – 33 Barrymore Road Greenvale 3059
[REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



cfa.vic.gov.au

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SUBMISSION TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE on the restructuring of Victoria's fire services as contemplated by the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Prepared by

The officers and firefighters of Greenvale Fire Brigade.

Summary

The officers and firefighters of Greenvale Fire Brigade support the fire service reform and the introduction of presumptive legislation. This reform is long overdue as the boundaries have not changed in over 60 years. We are deeply disappointed by the politicisation of the fire services and would like to get on with the job of protecting our communities. The reform will provide a better service for our community and importantly will not displace a single volunteer or negatively affect surge capacity.

Greenvale Fire Brigade | 33 Barrymore Rd, Greenvale VIC 3059

p. [REDACTED]

About the Brigade

Greenvale Fire Brigade is located in the northern outer metropolitan of Melbourne (20km north of the Melbourne CBD) and has a proud history of over 75 years. The Brigade became an integrated station in 2000 and currently has 16 active volunteers and 4 career firefighters per shift. Greenvale career and volunteer firefighters work together as one to protect the community.

Some of the fire risks in our brigade area include:

- Large residential areas and new housing developments
- Shopping centres
- Industrial areas and factories in Campbellfield
- Significant infrastructure (including Gellibrand Hill RADAR installation, Victoria Police Dog Squad, Victoria Police Mounted Branch and Greenvale Reservoir Dam)
- Major road networks (Tullamarine Fwy, Hume Hwy and the Ring Rd)
- Rail corridors
- Melbourne Airport
- Schools
- Aged and disabled care facilities
- Large grasslands
- Woodlands Park and surrounding historic area

Both the population and fire risk in the area have grown significantly in the 60 years that the district boundaries were set. Subdivision and development are at an all time high, as more and more people move to Greenvale and its surrounds seeking affordable housing. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has shown a population growth of 9.8% between 2015 and 2016 in Greenvale alone, with surrounding areas showing similar statistics. The community, their families and our volunteers expect, and deserve, a first class level of fire coverage.

For the purpose of the fire district, Greenvale is still classified as a country area of Victoria, which is simply not the case any more, as it is now a heavily urbanised area of outer metropolitan Melbourne.

Forecasted population growth (24 years) in the brigade's response area:

	2017 Population Forecast	2041 Population Forecast	Increase Percentage (%)
Greenvale - Oaklands Junction - Yuroke	18,367	31,200	69.87% increase
Mickleham	5,074	50,767	900.59% increase

Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hume>

Last year's population Growth

	2015 Population	2016 Population increase	Increase Percentage (%)
Greenvale - Bulla	15 882	1 420	9.8
Craigieburn - Mickleham	52 848	4 491	9.3

Source: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3218.0Main%20Features252015-16?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3218.0&issue=2015-16&num=&view=>

VFBV Don't Represent Us

The volunteers at Greenvale have distanced themselves from the actions of the VFBV, having written to both the VFBV and the UFU expressing their concern at their conduct.

Our VFBV delegate wrote to the VFBV on 15 June 2016 with a formal letter of complaint in response to the way in which they have been carrying themselves over the past few months, in relation to the current Staff EBA negotiations.

The letter from our VFBV delegate (which is attached to this submission) stated:

"We would like it to be duly noted that we do not support the misinformation and constant barrage by the public, our fellow volunteers and VFBV toward the career staff. We cannot understand the reason why brigades with no involvement with integrated brigades are so outspoken regarding the proposed EBA.

The massive strain on relationship at our brigade due to the level of involvement by the VFBV into a staff agreement has been putting consistent strain on both the volunteers and staff at our station.

We wish to distance ourselves from any further actions taken by the VFBV toward Career Staff in regards to the EBA dispute.

Through your actions all you are doing is created a huge divide between an otherwise well geared fire station. Your actions have done nothing but create animosity, anger and uncertainty between our volunteers.

We have and always will, work well with and shoulder to shoulder with our staff and our fellow volunteers."

(There has been no correspondence from the VFBV in relation to this letter).

The Greenvale Fire Brigade volunteers also wrote to the UFU Secretary on 15 June 2016 voicing their concern at the manner in which the VFBV and CFA have conducted themselves in relation to the current Staff EBA negotiations.

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July 2017- Submission to the select committee on the restructuring of Victoria's fire services as contemplated by the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 by the officers and firefighters of Greenvale Fire Brigade

The letter from our volunteers (which is attached to this submission) stated:

"All of the Volunteer members at Greenvale, wholeheartedly support our staff in the current battle for better pay and conditions. As a brigade, we wish to distance ourselves from the ridiculous claims of a Union takeover of CFA.

We view the actions and statements of the VFBV and Volunteer members from brigades with little or no contact, interaction or relationship with integrates stations as inflammatory and misinformed. We have always had a great working relationship with our staff members and will continue to work as one within our brigade.

The members of Greenvale are committed to serving our community in a professional manner working shoulder to shoulder with our staff and also CFA and MFB staff from neighbouring brigades.

We would hope that you could reiterate to the UFU members, CFA and MFB alike, that not all volunteers support these outrageous claims and the misinformation given to the general public as well as the volunteer community.

We hope these negotiations will be finalised soon, so we can do what we all joined the fire service to do, serve our community! In the meantime, we will continue to support our staff throughout their EBA negotiations."

Support for the Reform**We support the Bill for the following reasons:**

- It ensures that communities in these built up areas are protected by a modern fire service
- It provides presumptive legislation for career and volunteer firefighters
- It ensures appropriate fire response to risks in the area
- It improves service delivery standards
- It will improve firefighter safety by having the appropriate resources and support available, including specialist response
- It gives autonomy back to the CFA by enshrining it in law that it is a volunteer organisation

The reform achieves all this without effecting surge capacity or displacing a single volunteer. It also ends the politicisation of the fire services and allows us to get on with protecting our communities.

Conclusion

We the undersigned support the reform, and believe that it is well over-due. Our wish at this stage is to peacefully and safely get on with the job of protecting our community now and as it grows into the future.

GREENVALE FIRE BRIGADE

33 Barrymore Road, Greenvale, Victoria. 3059

Phone: (03) 9333 1244 Fax: (03) 9333 5091



Date: 15/06/2016

To: Andrew Ford

Dear Mr Ford,

This is a formal letter of complaint in response to the way in which the VFBV have been carrying themselves over the past few months, in relation to the current Staff EBA negotiations.

We would like it to be duly noted that we do not support the misinformation and constant barrage by the public, our fellow volunteers and VFBV toward the career staff. We cannot understand the reason why brigades with no involvement with integrated brigades are so outspoken regarding the proposed EBA.

The massive strain on relationships at our brigade due to the level of involvement by the VFBV into a staff agreement has been putting consistent strain on both volunteers and staff at our station.

We wish to distance ourselves from any further action taken by the VFBV toward Career Staff in regards to the EBA dispute.

Through your actions all you are doing is creating a huge divide between an otherwise well geared fire station. Your actions have done nothing but create animosity, anger and uncertainty between our volunteers.

We have and always will, work well with and shoulder to shoulder with our staff and our fellow volunteers.

Could you please acknowledge receipt of our correspondence.

Kind Regards,

Antonio Costa
3rd Lieutenant
VFBV Delegate for Greenvale Fire Station

GREENVALE FIRE BRIGADE

33 Barrymore Road, Greenvale, Victoria. 3059

Phone: (03) 9333 1244 Fax: (03) 9333 5091



Date 15/06/16

To: Peter Marshall,

We at Greenvale Fire Brigade would like to voice our concern at the manner in which the VFBV and CFA have conducted themselves in relation to the current CFA Career Staff EBA negotiations.

All of the Volunteer members at Greenvale, wholeheartedly support our staff in the current battle for better pay and conditions. As a brigade, we wish to distance ourselves from the ridiculous claims of a Union takeover of CFA.

We view the actions and statements of the VFBV and Volunteer members from brigades with little or no contact, interaction or relationship with integrated stations as inflammatory and misinformed. We have always had a great working relationship with our staff members and will continue to work as one within our brigade.

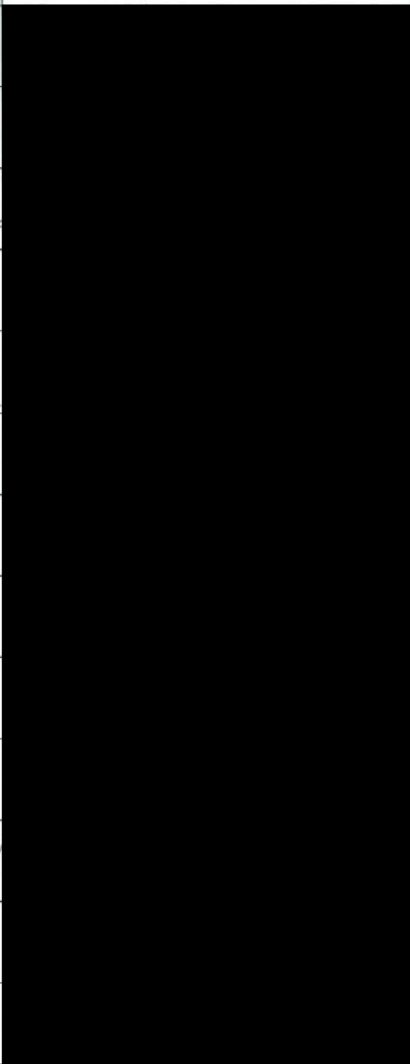
The members of Greenvale are committed to serving our community in a professional manner working shoulder to shoulder with our staff and also CFA and MFB Staff from neighbouring brigades.

We would hope that you could reiterate to the UFU members, CFA and MFB alike, that not all volunteers support these outrageous claims and the misinformation given to the general public as well as the volunteer community.

We hope these negotiations will be finalised soon, so we can do what we all joined the fire service to do, serve our community! In the meantime, we will continue to support our staff throughout their EBA negotiations.

Kind Regards,

Greenvale Fire Brigade Volunteers
33 Barrymore Road, Greenvale Vic 3059

Name	Rank	Signature
Thomas Walter	Firefighter	
Sam Bowen	Firefighter	
DAVID BRERETON	FIRE FIGHTER	
JARRID CARVIN	FIRE FIGHTER	
ROY GRIFFITHS	SENIOR STATION OFFICER	
JAMES WALKER	FIRE FIGHTER	
CLINT MORAN	FIRE FIGHTER	
Nick DeVincentis	Senior station officer	
Callan Stewart	Firefighter	
MICHAEL CIDDINGS	FIRE FIGHTER	
Paul Turner	Leading firefighter	
Daniel Irwin	Fire Fighter	
Francis Grech	Leading Firefighter	

The following members were unable to sign but ^{FSBSC SUBMISSION 1814} have given consent to sign on their behalf T. Waller [REDACTED]

Name	Rank	Signature
Geoff Ranzenhofer	Senior Station officer	
Tom Maher	Firefighter	
Keith Taylor	Station Officer	
Daniel English	Leading firefighter	
John Francis	Leading firefighter	
Matt Hope	Firefighter	