



Tom Waterson [REDACTED]  
06/07/2017 09:28 PM

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

1 attachment



Select Committee Fire Services Reform submission - Tom Waterson.docx

Please find attached my submission of support for the Fire Services Reform.

Regards,

Tom Waterson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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To Whom it May Concern

**RE: Fire Services Reform – Select Committee submission**

My name is Tom Waterson, I joined the CFA as a junior when I turned eleven years old (24 years ago) and have been a CFA career Firefighter for the last twelve years. I am currently a Leading Firefighter at Geelong City Fire Brigade and am writing to you to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I have grown up within CFA, my father has been a volunteer for over fifty years and was also employed as an Instructor for about fifteen years and my two brothers are also both volunteers and career Firefighters in CFA. I have found the last couple of years very difficult, firefighting to me has always been about providing a service to the community and putting other peoples needs before your own.

To see a very small percentage of CFA members fighting amongst themselves because of misinformation and political backgrounds has been extremely frustrating, to see it negatively portrayed in the media and make it all the way to a federal election left me feeling embarrassed to tell people what I did for a living. During the federal election the issue of 'seven on the fireground' was very poorly explained and used as a scare tactic to get votes, however at the same time volunteer Fire Brigades on the Bellerine Peninsula formally requested extra career Firefighters be responded to cover their area (during weekday daytime hours) all the way from Geelong. So we had politicians and the media telling the public that seven on the foreground was a slap in the face to Volunteers but in reality Volunteers actually wanted it to happen so they could ensure their community still received adequate response to emergencies. Since the federal election and the following changes to the Fair Work Act I have given up.

I feel let down by both the CFA and the UFU as I have had no say in my future as a career Firefighter. For me, I believe the situation has no better way forward now than to go ahead with the proposed reform. I am very concerned as to what will happen to my workplace, I guess Im just a little scared of change. However I do believe there are some real positives with the proposed changes that will result in a better service delivery to the community.

Also the proposed presumptive legislation would provide some security for me and my families future health, so I obviously support that as well.

I hope you consider my support for the reform and I look forward to the outcome, as it will hopefully let us move on and concentrate on doing what we do best, serving our community to the best of our ability.

Regards,

Tom Waterson

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