



Nick Hall [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 04:38 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject fire service reform

Please see attached in regards to the fire service reform.



Nick Hall Leading Firefighter
Hallam Fire Station – 12-14 Belgrave Hallam Rd, Hallam 3803



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immediately from your system. FIRE SERVICE REFORM.docx

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is Nick Hall and I am a Leading Firefighter with the Country Fire Authority. I have been employed as a career Firefighter for 5 years and was a volunteer for two years. I have worked at both regional and metropolitan stations and I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services.

I support this reform for many reasons, one of them is as a firefighter, it is important to have guaranteed backup. It's guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes. This response is for better community safety and protection, nothing against volunteers I think they do a fantastic job however in my experiences of working in a rural community it can be hard for volunteer brigades to respond consistently without delay let alone at all and sometimes only one person per appliance...the only people that suffer for this is the very same community they try to protect.

In one circumstance I was responded to a structure fire some 25 minutes away and arrived on scene the same time as the local brigade. Thankfully no persons were hurt. I wouldn't want that type of service/protection for anyone. At the same call not one person other than the 3 staff members had sufficient competencies to wear breathing apparatus to enable them to conduct an internal fire fight.

This is just one example and having been a volunteer I can appreciate the sacrifices they make. However the current model no longer works. Under the new model the 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).

I chose to join the CFA to work alongside the volunteers, to train, and mentor. I believe this can still happen under a safer model aimed at what is best for the community.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Hall Leading Firefighter

Hallam Fire Station – 12-14 Belgrave Hallam Rd, Hallam 3803
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