



06/07/2017 10:02 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS'
PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
COMPENSATION AND FIRE
SERVICES LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017 -
Confidential

This submission is to be treated as confidential. It is only intended that my name, identity and contact details be kept confidential

Committee Members,

I write to you in support of Fire Service reform here in Victoria.

I have been a career firefighter for nearly 7 years now and am currently stationed at Dandenong.

For too long volunteers in CFA have been treated like an endangered species at the detriment of the community. The same community they are apparently here to protect.

Trained the same

It is often stated that volunteers are "trained the same" as career firefighters. This is not only completely untrue but offensive. In 2011 I completed a 16 week recruit course at Fiskville Training College. I was required to meet certain standards and was held to account. Volunteer Firefighters show up for a few weekends of training and can respond to firecalls.

Response Areas

It is truly unbelievable that volunteer Captains and Volunteer Brigade management teams can dictate response boundaries and what other brigades can attend fire calls in their primary response areas. I recall a time where I was on duty at Rosebud Fire Station in 2012 where we were sitting there listening to radio traffic where there was a fully involved house fire in Safety Beach. The local brigade eventually responded with limited crew numbers. Rosebud was not responded. This was because Dromana Captain did not want us going to jobs in his area. How on earth is the practice allowed to happen? To this day it still does. It makes me sick to the stomach.

Fire Service Reform is a must

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