

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

My name is Matthew Baker. I have been a full-time fire fighter for 3 years with the MFB. I am currently stationed at Eastern Hill Fire Station in Melbourne city on D Platoon. I have done majority of my time in the Outer eastern suburbs, Ringwood and North Balwyn.

I am in full support of the proposed fire services reforms.

I currently live in the outer Eastern suburbs in a CFA volunteer area and I appreciate all the work they do and that they are on call 24 hours a day. But I feel that me and my family do not have the same fire protection as those who live in the Melbourne Fire District in which I work to protect life and property.

The area I live in is a rapid growth area with apartment buildings and subdivisions on every street, this population growth and infrastructure increase deserves to be protected as inner suburbs do and I fully support a reassignment of the current MFB and CFA fire boundaries to encompass this increase in population.

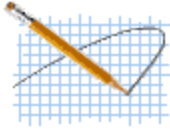
I believe that the communities in urban areas deserve (and pay for) a full-time fire service, with two appliances with a minimum seven firefighters responding within 8 minutes. I have seen first-hand the enormous difference a few minutes can have in emergency situations such as the development of a structural fire or the progression of a cardiac arrest.

CFA volunteers play a very important part in our rural firefighting capacity and within our work I am willing and happy to support them and work with them. These reforms have no impact on the volunteer service (in fact they include features to assist with recruitment, retention and funding) and all to do with better protecting Victoria.

Finally, I want to convey to the Committee the emotional toll this ongoing dispute has had on both my colleagues and me. What began as an EBA negotiation has turned into a public, politically-driven agenda with little regard for the major issue at hand – public safety. When making your recommendations and vote, please make this your deciding factor.

Yours Sincerely

Matthew Baker



Matthew [REDACTED]

07/07/2017 03:04 PM

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

1 attachment



Fire services reform committee letter.docx

Good afternoon,

Please see attached letter as a submission to the fire services reform committee.

Thank you,

Matthew Baker