



**Matt Cooper** [REDACTED]  
07/07/2017 04:41 PM

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

Dear assistant clerk Committees

Please find the attached submission for the fire service reform

I would like my submission to remain confidential :

Regards,



**Matthew Cooper Firefighter**

Morwell Fire Station – [REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.



Submission fire service reform.docx

Dear assistant clerk Committees

## **Inquiry into the fire fighters presumptive rights compensation and fire service legislation amendment (reform) bill 2017**

❖ I would like my submission to remain **confidential**:

I am a Level 2 Fire Fighter for the CFA. I have been a Career Fire Fighter for the past 18 months.

I live in ferny creek and currently work at Morwell fire station. I also volunteer in my local community at Sassafras Ferny Creek Fire Brigade where I have been an active member since 2015. In my time as a volunteer fire fighter I have attended many incidents in the local area as well as long duration fires in Lancefield as part of a strike team. I am currently still an active member of the brigade.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire service for the following reasons:

- In my short time in the Latrobe Valley working at Morwell I have already been exposed to how crucial is to have the guaranteed two trucks with seven or more fire-fighters dispatched within Eight minutes. There are surrounding brigades that struggle to get trucks out of the station during the day. For this reason alone is incredibly scary for those attending the fire call as well as the community that are unaware of the possibility of no one turning up within the first few minutes.

Once arriving on scene at an incident it then becomes a huge safety concern for the members involved with what assistance and backup they will receive. Having the two trucks will insure that the required number qualified operators are on scene in an appropriate time.

- In my very short career as a fire-fighter I have been to a number of fire calls where brigades have failed to respond or have turned out with just the one crew on board. This means they become the navigator, driver, communications and then the sole operator of the appliance.
- **In only the first few weeks I started at Morwell station around mid-morning there was a report of a car accident person's trapped (roll over) this was just outside our assignment area. As it wasn't our area we were not able to respond. As we sat and waited for any radio traffic on the event, the local brigade turned out code 1 (lights and sirens) with only a single operator.... Within a few minutes there was another call for a second accident on the other side of the road where a car had slowed down to look and then been hit from behind by a truck (confirmed persons trapped). As we waited longer, a second brigade turned out code 1 with also a single operator...**
  - ❖ **2 separate accidents**

- ❖ **2 CFA trucks and 2 operators**
  - ❖ **3 people possibly trapped**
  - ❖ **Morwell staff were not responded, Not only would we have had 2 crews of fully qualified people but we would have been first on scene.**
  - ❖ **As a new fire-fighter it was incredibly eye opening how out of date this system is and how it needs to be updated.**
  - ❖ **With new updated to the fire service and changes to the response tables this wouldn't have occurred.**
- Creating the one fire service will allow the sufficient safety for the crews and for the public. There are brigades that are very territorial and this needs to be stopped, it's not about the excitement of going to fire calls or having dirty turnout gear. If the pagers go off it is because someone is having the worst day of their life and we are here to help and assist in way we can. In order for us to do this we first need to be responded and with a sufficient crew of qualified operators. It's time to modernise the fire service and make it safe for the operators and the community.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Cooper

Fire Fighter

Morwell Fire Station

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]