



Matthew Bourke

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

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,
 INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES
 LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

My name is Matthew Bourke and I have been a professional CFA firefighter for 1 year. I am currently based at Eltham fire station ; I have also worked at Craigieburn fire station . I live in Croydon South which is serviced under the MFB area . I feel comfortable knowing that I have professional staff providing a high level of expertise that is protecting my family and home with a 90 second response time.

Due to my family expanding and needing a larger house I have been forced to move to Lilydale in the coming weeks. Lilydale is serviced by volunteer members who have varying skills , being that it is a volunteer station Lilydale has a 4 minute response time. I fully understood these conditions prior to purchasing in this area ; however being that Lilydale and the surrounding outer Eastern suburbs is an ever-growing and developing area I believe that this response rate needs to be decreased and serviced with a truck of experienced and knowledgable firefighters . Lilydale and its surrounds have a large amount of industrial infrastructure as well as a proposed housing estate within the quarry in Lilydale . I feel that a volunteer station would not be able to provide a professional and timely service that a community of this size and diversity requires . I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for following reasons:

One of the key points that I would like to make heard is that the service that will be provided to the community will significantly improve because of the standardised equipment , training and unity across the whole service.

The service that would be able to be delivered if this reform were to take place would improve certain areas with an increased turnout time from a min of 4 mins to a maximum of 90 seconds with a minimum crew of 7 firefighters providing a safer delivery to the community .

The disputation has been detrimental to my development having graduated while in dispute . Within the workplace morale has been low and due to the confusion of the future of CFA my development has not been prioritised as it should be . This has resulted in me feeling frustrated and under skilled.

Below are examples from my experiences which demonstrates the failures of the current

structure:

- Confusion in the community; civilians not knowing that there are career firefighters as well as volunteers within the CFA .
- Civilians not understanding the coverage areas between CFA and the MFB fire service.
- Duped turnout times from volunteers ; There have been numerous occurrences where a brigade on my shift have lied about being in transit to a firecall when they havent yet left station . This prevents staffed appliances from having the correct support on scene .

I request that the committee treat this submission as confidential .

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Bourke

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