



Tim Rochford [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 02:34 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire services reform submission

Dear committee members,

Please find attached my submission for fire services reform.

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

Tim Rochford Fire Fighter.



Protecting
lives and
property



cfa.vic.gov.au

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Fire services reform submission.pdf

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

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

My name is, Timothy Rochford and I am a Level 1 Fire Fighter, I have been employed by the CFA for 11 months.

I live in Langwarrin and work in Mornington

I also volunteer in my community Langwarrin for the past 5 years, however now I am stepping back from my role as a volunteer.

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

Although I haven't been a career fire fighter for very long I have been a CFA member for 5 years,

And during my time as a CFA member both as a volunteer and as career staff, I have witnessed many times when the volunteer truck, doesn't get out the door for whatever reason.

As a staff member particularly at Mornington, we are continually frustrated at being underutilised; we can see where local fires and emergencies are happening in our surrounding suburbs and wondering why we are stuck in station being paid not to protect our community. By passing the bill for fire services reform, it will be much easier for us to protect our community in a safe and timely manner and the public will get the service they need and deserve.

In my home town of Langwarrin, every time the pager goes off for a call, Langwarrin are supported by Frankston. When Frankston support into Langwarrin they send their Teleboom appliance, which only has 2 career staff on it, a leading fire fighter and a fire fighter. As a general rule, because of their 90 second turnout time they beat Langwarrin to the call. But occasionally Langwarrin fail to respond, or respond with an inexperienced/ underqualified crew, which puts limits on the effectiveness of the responding crews. It puts extra pressure on the career staff, and reduces the capacity to protect lives and property.

Having 7 paid professionals and 2 fire trucks dispatched, would mean that Langwarrin were getting a guaranteed response, and will allow fire fighters to do their job safely.

This means the community is safer, and fire fighters are safer, and if Langwarrin was to arrive with an experienced crew, then the second career truck would be able to be freed to return back home.

Employing all the professionals under one organisation makes sense; it will allow us to streamline operations, specialist response and training between all career ranks. This will not impact on volunteers in providing the services that they do, where a career staff station borders a volunteer station when they get a call for an emergency, 2 career appliances should be dispatched along with 7 career staff to ensure that the call has sufficient resources heading to it. When / if the volunteers turn out if they have a good experienced crew on their appliance, the attending crews can decide

whether or not the second career truck is required, and if not they can return to their primary area to ensure continual coverage of their area. This will not apply to there bushfire response, only urban risks.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission, and I look forward to fire services reform and continuing to work with CFA volunteers.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Rochford.



Tim Rochford Fire Fighter.

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted contact information line]