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06/07/2017 02:46 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc [REDACTED]  
bcc  
Subject Inquiry into the Firefighters'  
Presumptive Rights Compensation  
and Fire Services Legislation  
Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

1 attachment

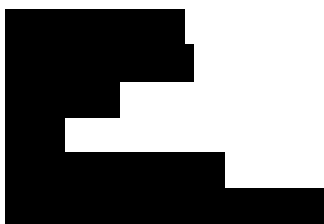


Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017.docx

Please find attached my submission to the Select committee  
Could you please treat any of my personal information as Confidential and not release any of my details

Regards

[REDACTED]



Inquiry into the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Select Committee

My Background is I have been employed with the MFB since 1980

My current rank is Leading Firefighter and I'm in my 38<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community

My Submission:

Having worked for a large percentage of my time in the Western district of the Metropolitan Fire District I have watched the interface of CFA and MFB change from paddocks to a dense residential area

In the "80's" We would regularly turnout with Volunteer brigades along this interface for grass fires and the occasional house fire (as there weren't many houses back then)

Often we would be working for half an hour before the volunteers arrived but everybody understood the method required to stop work, go to the station and pick up the truck and crew and proceed to the fire

As the interface became urbanised the calls became more frequent and the Volunteers response became more haphazard

Often someone would book on scene but not have a crew or truck with them

This misguided behaviour was extremely dangerous for the MFB crews on site who thought they had support and it was also not giving their community the fire protection they thought they had Eventually the urban spread got too great and the CFA had to install fully staffed stations

Once again the spread of residential areas is moving at a greater pace and the volunteer response cannot keep up with it

With the advent of Emergency Medical Response the families that are moving into these areas are not only missing out on EMR but a fire service that they think is like the one they had growing up in the MFD

As a father of three adult children who will soon be looking at these areas to start their families and build their first homes I find the need for these resources to be available to them important

Recent media on the urban sprawl and the current rate of population growth also underline the need for this reform

From my experience there is a need for a modern fire service that moves with the population and urban sprawl and caters for the evolution of building practices and materials as well as the needs of communities

Otherwise the loss of life and property is going to outstrip the headlines about the Fire Service Reform

Grenfell is a timely reminder

Based on my experience in the Fire Service I highly recommend and support this legislation not just for the reform of an antiquated system but for the betterment of every community in Victoria

Regards



Leading Firefighter

MFB