

FIRE SERVICES BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017 - INSTRUCTIONS TO MEMBERS FOR SUBMISSIONS

On 21 June 2017 the Government referred the Fire Services Reform Bill to a Select Committee. This Committee will be considering submissions from key stakeholders including members of the public. It is vital that all UFU members participate in this action and provide a submission to this inquiry in support of Fire Services Reform.

THE UFU IS CALLING ON EACH AND EVERY MEMBER TO PUT IN THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION. THIS WILL BE AN EVIDENCE BASED INQUIRY AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS ACCESS TO THE RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT SUPPORTS THE NEED AND BENEFITS FOR THE REFORM.

Submissions need not be overly complex or technical and should be as simple as a document outlining your reasons for supporting fire services reform. Individual experiences can be and should be added to highlight the vital need for this reform.

Submissions should remain **respectful** and **professional** and **focus on the facts**. Key themes you might want to consider, depending on your role within the fire services, are covered below. The terms of reference for the committee are also outlined below.

TIMEFRAMES

The time frames for is extremely tight.

All members must submit their submission to the Parliamentary Committee by 7 July 2017.

The Inquiry will progress through July 2017 and there will be dates for public hearings. The committee must report back no later than 8 August 2017.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A Select Committee of eight Members be appointed to inquire into, consider and report, no later than 8 August 2017, on the restructuring of Victoria's fire services as contemplated by the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 and, in particular, the —

- impact on fire service delivery across Victoria
- effect on volunteer engagement and participation in fire service delivery
- short term and long term cost impact on fire service provision
- underlying policy rationale

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The current committee membership is as follows:

- Chair - Gordon Rich Philips (Lib – South-Eastern Metropolitan)

- Deputy Chair – Daniel Mulino (ALP, Eastern Victoria)
- Colleen Hartland (Greens – Western Metropolitan)
- Daniel Young (Shooters, Fishers & Farmers – Northern Victoria)
- Cesar Melham (ALP – Western Metropolitan)
- Harriet Shing (ALP – Eastern Victoria)
- Luke O’Sullivan (Nat – Northern Victoria)
- Wendy Lovell (Lib – Northern Victoria)

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SUBMISSION

- Submissions may also be emailed to the Committee at LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au
- Members can also use eSubmission form via the Committee website
<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fireservicesbill/>
- Submissions can be posted to the Committee at the following address (please be extremely conscious of timeframes for Australia Post delivery and use express post where necessary):

Assistant Clerk Committees

Department of the Legislative Council

Fire Service Bill Select Committee

Parliament House, Sprint Street

East Melbourne VIC 3002

SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- Your full name
- Contact details (either a postal address or phone number)
- The text of your submission or an attachment containing your submission
- A clear indication if you are seeking confidentiality

PRIVILEGE

Submissions that are accepted by a committee are protected by parliamentary privilege. This means that no legal action can be taken against you in relation to the evidence in your submission. If you choose to publish your submission in another form, for example on your website, that publication will not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

CONFIDENTIALITY

If you do not want your submission to be published, you may request that the committee treat it as

confidential. Confidential submissions cannot be completed online using the eSubmission. Requests must be made by contacting the Secretary.

KEY THEMES TO COVER:

- Who you are, what you do, where you work, what is your classification/rank? Outline your role within the fire services. Please include any qualifications including specialist qualifications and any awards.
- Why you support fire services reform – some ideas include:
 - You live/work in a highly urbanised residential area that requires a modern urban fire service. This can include knowledge of population growth and increased urbanisation of your local area.
 - Outline any notable risks in your area, i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, industrial sites that require a modern urban fire service or a specialist/timely response.
 - Examples you have where response has been inadequate.
 - Whether you are a CFA volunteer and why you support the reform as a volunteer and why there will be no negative impact on you as a volunteer.
 - The impact of the ongoing industrial disputation on you and your colleagues and your desire to see it end.
- Attach any documentation you have to support your submission (still make a submission even if you do not have supporting documentation).

For further more detailed information on the reform please review the Government website at <https://fireservices.vic.gov.au/> or alternatively the UFU Fire Doesn't Wait website at www.firedoesntwait.com.au

For assistance or support in drafting and submitting these submissions please contact your local workplace delegate in the first instance or alternatively Industrial Officer Rini Krouskos on 0400 441 616 or via email at io3@ufuvic.asn.au

DRAFT STRUCTURE FOR SUBMISSIONS

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PARLIAMENT SELECT COMMITTEE BY 7 JULY 2017.

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT BY EMAIL TO: LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au

OR

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT USING THE PARLIAMENTARY WEBSITE ELECTRONIC (eSUBMISSION) FORM (but such submissions will not be confidential) <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fireservicesbill/inquiries/article/3790>

OR

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE POSTED (BUT MUST BE RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE BY 7 JULY 2017)

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Note:

- If you have recently written to a Member of Parliament supporting the reform, you may already have put together points and examples that you can include in your submission.
- Remember a submission can be just a letter, an email, telling your story or giving your views. Please keep them factual and attach any relevant documents you have.
- If you want your name/identifying factors or your whole submission to be confidential you need to state that at the start of your submission.
- For further more detailed information on the reform please review:
 - the Government website at <https://fireservices.vic.gov.au/>
 - the UFU Fire Doesn't Wait website at www.firedoesntwait.com.au

DRAFT EXAMPLE OF A SUBMISSION STRUCTURE

By email: LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

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

1. I am

[insert

- rank/classification/position
- name of the employer.
- include length of service,
- qualifications
- specialist qualifications
- awards/commendations]

2. I live in [insert location] and work in [insert location].

3. I also volunteer in my community [insert where and when, length of service etc]

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

[Insert your reasons – some themes are listed below that you would put in your own words – or you may have other points to make]:

- *Reasons why as a firefighter that it is important to have guaranteed backup - guaranteed that two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes.*
- *What that response means for better community safety and protection*
- *How employing all career firefighters in one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity*
- *That volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters (OO's OMs etc being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)*
- *That the reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response*
- *The 35 areas are now highly urbanised – high residential and other risks*

- *The reform will assist with standardisation of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment etc*
- *Why it is better to have all career staff being employed by one fire service*
- *The damage the disputation in the workplace has had on your workplace and any additional strain that has had on you and your family.*
- *The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades etc*

5. Below are examples from my experiences which demonstrates the failures of the current structure:

6. I attach the following documents:

Yours sincerely,

Full Name:

Contact details (postal address and/or mobile)