

**FIRE SERVICES BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017  
SUBMISSION**

My name is Nicholas John Sharp and I am employed as a Firefighter by the CFA.

I work at the Rosebud Fire Station and also live within the Rosebud Area.

My postal address is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I support the Fire Services Reform Bill which will provide a more efficient and effective Fire Service to the residents of Victoria.

I support the Bill on the basis that it will:

- a. Provide residents with a quicker response time.
- b. Reduce the risk of injury and loss of life.
- c. Improve the safety of Firefighters.
- d. Restore Community Confidence in the Fire Services.
- e. Reduce disparity between Fire Service Response in inner metropolitan areas and outer metropolitan areas.
- f. Reduce stress on Firefighters due to inadequate manning on Fireground.
- g. Provide best practice instead of an outdated practice.
- h. Improve mental health of Firefighters who have been victimised by the media.
- i. Enable Firefighters to secure an EBA and their future.
- j. Provide economies of scale from the merging of the MFB and CFA.
- k. Increase Interoperability.
- l. Provide presumptive rights legislation to staff and volunteer Firefighters.
- m. Reduce stress on family members who understand that Firefighters are suffering under the current conditions.
- n. Improved Service Delivery Standard.

I have been concerned for a very long time about the inadequate emergency response that the Rosebud, Rye, Boneo, Sorrento, Main Ridge, Dromana, McCrae and Tootgarook areas receive from the CFA due to a reliance on Volunteer Brigades in urban areas.

The following is an email that I sent to staff at Rosebud Fire Station on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 highlighting my concerns about volunteer brigades being responded to incidents and career Firefighters not being paged and the risk it poses to the community.

**EMAIL**

On Thursday the 26th December 2013 at approx. 0106hrs Rosebud Staff were paged to attend a going structure fire in Dromana. The address was 26 Dromana Parade Dromana.

We were paged to attend by the incident controller and were not notified via pager as Rosebud Pumper is not listed on the response tables for Dromana 7 assignment area.

Dromana Fire Brigade and Mount Martha Brigade were the responding Brigades.

The following are the response times for the appliances obtained from CAD data.

	Dromana Pumper	Mount Martha Pumper	Rosebud Pumper
Paged	00:58hrs	00:58hrs	01:06hrs
Turned Out	01:04hrs	01:03hrs	01:08hrs
On Scene	01:05hrs	01:12hrs	01:17hrs
Duration	7 mins	14 mins	11 mins

In essence if the Rosebud Pumper was paged at the same time as the responding Brigades we would have arrived on scene 4 minutes behind Dromana Pumper and 3 minutes ahead of Mount Martha Pumper.

More importantly the Rosebud Pumper would have arrived on scene 8 minutes earlier if we had been included in the response tables.

I am concerned due to the delayed response of Rosebud turning out to Structure Fires in Dromana 7 assignment area that there may be a loss of life or serious injury in the future which may have been preventable.

In conclusion I believe members of the public are entitled to the best possible emergency response and in these circumstances they are not receiving that service.

It is my opinion CAD data should be changed so that Dromana 7 is a C response and Rosebud Pumper is included in the response tables and paged on initial notification.

For your information.

Nick Sharp Qualified Firefighter 26719

[Redacted signature block]

**END OF EMAIL**

There are numerous incidents similar to the above situation which has occurred on the Mornington Peninsula.

I do not understand why residents of this area who pay a Fire Service Levy do not receive the same service delivery standard as the inner metropolitan area when we have hospitals, nursing homes, industrial areas, Shopping Centres and National Parks.

Please consider the benefits of the Fire Services Reform Bill and understand that with the growing population of Victoria the current structure of Fire Services will fail to meet the demands and expectations of the community and Firefighters