

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Kane Weber [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 11:25 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission

My name is Kane Weber and I am a Leading Firefighter with the CFA. I have been a professional career firefighter for almost 10 years. I live in Belmont which is a suburb of Geelong and work at Geelong City FS. I am currently on secondment to VEMTC Craigieburn as a Recruit Instructor.

Over the course of my career I have gained many skills and qualifications in order to provide a high level of competent emergency response. This began with a 16 week intensive recruit course, continuation training on station and daily drills to ensure my skills are at a high standard. I completed a 3 week LFF development course followed by 3 days of assessments to progress to the rank of LFF. Below is a list of current appliances and specialist response roles that I am required to maintain my skills on.

Scania heavy pumper

3.4C tanker

Heavy rescue (RAR)

42m ladder platform

37m ladder platform

Teleboom

Low, steep and high angle rope rescue operator

Trench rescue operator

Confined space rescue operator

USAR CAT 2 operator

I completely support the much needed change that a unified and modern professional fire service will bring to the Victorian community with FRV. Times have changed and we need to change with it.

When the integrated model was started society was different. People's work commitments didn't see them traveling such long distances from their homes. People had more flexibility and time to respond as volunteers. Unfortunately, and not to detract from the work volunteers do, but that is not the case anymore. Time and time again I have been en route or on scene at a fire or incident and heard on the radio that brigades have failed to

respond, or are awaiting a driver or arrive on scene 1 or 2 up and are not BA qualified. They are doing the best they can but when it compromises my safety and that of my colleagues then it is clear it needs to be fixed.

We need to know we are getting 2 appliances with 7 professional firefighters dispatched to jobs in the 35 locations. This is so that we can commence safe operations and not be wondering whether the back up crew from a volunteer brigade will or won't be able to respond with sufficient numbers and in a timely manner. If they do respond then that is great as it means more Firefighters on scene to complete the task safely and efficiently, providing a better response that the community deserve. The implementation of FRV won't affect the volunteers ability to respond to incidents and their surge capacity as at integrated stations they will co-locate and all other stations will remain unaffected so it will be business as usual.

There has been a lot of industrial unrest causing angst with our workforce in recent years, however the last 12 months have been by far the worst. Our EBA negotiations have taken a very public and political path and this has affected me personally and everyone else I work with. The morale on station is at an all time low with the constant attacks from the VFBV, liberal politicians, certain media outlets and unfortunately even some members of the public. The federal government introduced legislation that now allows all volunteers and their representative body the ability to have a say in our pay and conditions which has also created uncertainty with the security of our job.

I ask that you please consider this much needed change that will benefit us as career staff in one streamlined professional fire service, FRV, the volunteers with a 100% volunteer fire service, CFA and most importantly the community who will get a modern fire service that reflects how we have grown as a state.

Yours sincerely

Kane Weber
