

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 12:14 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: submission for proposed Fire Service Reforms

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is [REDACTED]; I have been employed by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades board since 1979. I have been a Senior Station officer since 1990. I am currently based at the Sunshine Fire Station. I have acted into the Operational Commander positions in Central "A" & "C" platoons and Western "A" platoon in the Melbourne Fire Districts. I have also been the acting Inspector/Commander Fire Safety in Western District Fire (now known as Community Resilience"). I am a Fire investigator and a Hazmat Technician.

Please treat my name and identity only as confidential

I am writing to support the Fire Services Reforms for the following reasons,

- 1** The reform addresses the boundary deficiencies that have allowed MFB & CFA stations not to be strategically positioned to give the optimum turnout coverage for the growing Urban Victoria.
- 2** The reform allows for a \$56.2 million dollar support fund for volunteer training, recruitment, and retention. This would increase Volunteer skill level to meet the increasing complexities of fire fighting operations, and allow for more structurally trained Fire Fighters.
- 3** I see that the reform will increase & enhance the "Surge Capacity" that the volunteers fear they will lose. This will be done by increasing what we already have where the career Fire Fighters cover volunteer urban stations to allow the volunteers to respond to protracted fires and other incidents. This is done while maintaining a high level of fire and emergency capability for the community.
- 4** The reform joins all career fire Fighters into a single group that will formalize standards, training, and procedures in Urban Victoria
- 5** The major benefit of the reform will be that the CFA will return to a "volunteer only" organisation that will manage and support its volunteers. Volunteers will again have ownership of CFA that would be enshrined in law. This will take away the biggest fear that has been misrepresented and portrayed in the media.
- 6** I have noticed that fire fighter moral, health and well being has been severely tested by the on going political division and media misinformation. This has had Career and Volunteer Fire Fighters having to correct and justify our industry when our actions should speak for themselves. The reforms will take the politics out of the fire services and benefit all Fire Fighters.
- 7** The nature of Fire Fighting has changed over the years to include many exposure hazards that are carcinogenic and toxic to the health of Fire Fighters. The proposed **presumptive legislation** will be a benefit to all Fire Fighters: Career and Volunteers and show them that the Government and the community will support them if they need it.

In closing:

Moving my family to a semi rural Hoppers Crossing in early 1983. Looking out my front door to seasonal crop farming followed by stock grazing where the "local" CFA volunteers did an exceptional job protecting our area in a low road traffic environment. This was a time when it took 20- 25 minutes to get to Melbourne CBD. To what we have now where it takes 20 minutes to get out of my street, and can take up to an hour & 20 minutes to get to the Melbourne CBD. The Fire Service Reforms will allow the Victorian Fire services to meet community expectations and move forward in a planned harmonious partnership to benefit Victoria.

Thank you

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[REDACTED]

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