

To Consultation/DTF@DTF

cc "LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au" <LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au'>

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Subject Submission to Fire Services Reform Commission

To the Fire Services Reform Commission,

I am a Senior Station Officer with the MFB currently stationed at Eastern Hill Fire Station, and have worked for the MFB for over twelve years. I am very proud to be a MFB firefighter.

I live in the suburb of Frankston which has an integrated CFA station. The support from volunteers in my area and surrounding suburbs is a credit to them as many do work normal hours (9-5) within their day jobs, and then dedicate time to the CFA.

However, if the Frankston crew had to respond to a fire at my home I would be concerned there would not be sufficient resources to effectively extinguish the fire in a short period of time, given there may be no second or third truck, which are generally crewed by volunteers.

This is also a safety risk for the crews going in for a search and rescue or internal attack to suppress the fire. As an officer within the MFB I know that we operate with safety as our primary focus and will not send crews in without extra personnel to facilitate safe and effective rescue or firefighting when at a call. Seven on the fire ground is vital.

I would support the same type of safety systems for my peers in the CFA.

Having reform of our fire services provides an opportunity to improve many facets across both organisations to provide a modern and stable workforce. This would result in a resetting of the unfavourable relationship between the services, ending the Industrial Relations disputation so that we can all move forward with a positive vision of our future.

I strongly believe that Victoria needs this reform, to provide a modern fire service to the expanding community it serves and to provide a safer work environment for those that work within it.

Kind regards,

Trudy Walker

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