

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission on proposed reform of fire

services

Dear Select Committee,

I submit that the reforms recently achieved in New Zealand, with the establishment of *Fire & Emergency New Zealand*, have delivered a more progressive and contemporary outcome than that proposed under the Fire Rescue Victoria Bill.

The trend internationally is towards integration, rather than away. The key to resolving the disagreements between stakeholders lies in having the courage to progress to a genuine outcome-focus as the shared basis for evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of the services delivered by the emergency management sector. Again, there is a clear international, and national, trend towards outcomes as the basis for the evaluation of public value.

It is not really possible to assess the public value delivered by the emergency management sector in the current model because the focus is on output, or service delivery, standards rather than public safety outcomes.

A truly integrated emergency management sector, with a genuine focus on public safety outcomes, should be the desired endstate for any program of reform. This endstate will be significantly more difficult to achieve in an environment where the proposed Fire Rescue Victoria reforms have been implemented.

Regards,

John



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