

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Reform



## To Whom It May Concern:

I am a current CFA fire fighter at the Warrnambool station. I write in regards to the proposed changes to the fire services within Victoria and urge you to initiate beneficial change for employees, volunteers and the community.

I believe that the creation of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) is a necessary change to an outdated model that will best serve the growing community of Victoria. It responds to changes in population and suburb growth in both metro and rural Victoria. It ensures we are providing the best possible response and therefore the best possible community safety now and into the future.

I believe you will be presented with facts about the fire services reform and I also believe you will be presented with emotive and opinionated opposition. I urge you to select the path that will provide excellence in fire service delivery and the safety of the community, based on fact and not emotion.

Previous to my employment with the CFA I was a Paramedic with Ambulance Victoria and I have been initiated and trained over the past two years during a time of turmoil for my colleagues. Politicians, journalists and VFBV supporters have slandered these staff fire fighters but all of the staff I have dealt with have always remained professional, focused and genuinely have a desire to provide Victoria with the best possible fire service.

I believe there have been many misconceptions about the changes and the effects on volunteers. At Warrnambool station the relationship between staff and volunteers is strong despite what the media would like to present. I have learnt from volunteers, I have worked alongside volunteers and I will continue to do so if FRV is initiated. I believe that separating staff from volunteers will enable us to focus on service delivery and not politics and will benefit both staff and ensure autonomy for volunteers.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joshua Ind