

Kirra Vanzetti

From: John McDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 8:21 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Victoria

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

1. - I am a CFA level 1 professional firefighter
 - I have been employed by the CFA for 10 months
 - I have completed a recruit course, station induction and tanker and pumper increments
2. I live in Ocean Grove and work at Point Cook Fire Station
3. I have also volunteered as a junior football and cricket coach in my local community
4. I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:
 - I believe that a guaranteed response of at least 7 firefighters on 2 trucks dispatched within 8 minutes is important for the community because of the increased level of congestion on our roads and the increased level of residential density. Not only is extinguishment important, but containment and prevention of exposure/fire extension is vital. Multiple and variant exposure to fires makes containment even more important.
 - The proposed response will ensure crews are able to not only make a more incisive fire attack, but ensure adjoining premises are protected
 - Volunteers utilise different appliances/vehicles to professional staff and are able to turn out whenever they are paged and can arrive at the station with a full crew. This procedure will not be changed by the proposed reform . Further, volunteers will still be able to nominate for strike teams and fulfil the role of surge capacity; again this will not be a change from current procedures.
 - Volunteer brigades will still be directly supported by FRV officers and regional commanders under the proposed reforms.
 - The CFA has 1219 brigades. Only 35 of these brigades are in integrated stations. 1184 brigades will see no change at all to their current operation as a result of the proposed reforms.
 - The 35 integrated brigades are all based in highly urbanised areas requiring a rapid response. This is more difficult for volunteers to negotiate in these areas.
 - The proposed reforms will assist with the standardisation of training, specialist response, equipment and terminology across the state. This is a major benefit of having career staff employed by one fire service. Other benefits include cost saving by preventing duplication of management etc
 - This long-running industrial dispute has seen morale amongst CFA professional firefighters reduce. Colleagues tell me years of uncertainty has placed a significant strain on them and their families.
 - The reform will assist volunteers as it includes a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention and station upgrades.
5. Several times during my brief career, I have seen at handover time volunteers arriving at station, but unable to turn out as they do not have sufficient crew numbers. This is not the fault of the volunteers, but underlines the importance of the 7 firefighter, 2 truck, 8 minute response for the general public.

Regards



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