



Aaron Johnson [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 10:49 PM

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

My name is Aaron Johnson, I live at [REDACTED], I have been a professional CFA Firefighter for 15 years. I am a Leading Firefighter currently appointed to Frankston fire station.

My Current specialist qualifications include Road Accident Rescue, Ladder Platform 42m, Teleboom 20m, Rope Rescue, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Air Observer. I have also been a CFA Volunteer and a Project Firefighter for DSE (DELWP).

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

In my area of Frankston we have a minimum manning of 5 Firefighter's crewing 2 trucks, I regularly perform the role of Crew Leader in the second appliance responding to all of our support Brigade areas with a crew of **2**. These areas include but are not limited to Patterson River, Dandenong, Carrum Downs, Skye, Langwarrin, Baxter, Somerville, Mornington and Mt Eliza.

On Numerous occasions I have responded to incidents which pose significant life risk with inadequate crewing and little or no back up crews responding. I have been put in the unnecessary position of having to operate outside of Standard Operating Procedures(SOP's) because of insufficient safe Firefighter crew numbers on the fire scene.

I would also like to share with you an example of where our system is incredibly out-dated and inadequate, There is a major 4 lane road that runs North in our Fire response district,

- When a fire occurs on the **Western** side of the road, the Response is 2 trucks from Frankston (total 5 Professional Firefighter's) and a support truck from Patterson River (3 Professional Firefighter's). This will give us a total of 8 Professional Firefighter's on scene to Combat the Fire.
- When a fire occurs on the **Eastern** side of the road, the response is 1 Support Truck from Frankston (2 Professional Firefighter's) with support coming from the nearest Volunteer Brigade.

This example is not an isolated one and many more like it exist because of out-dated response boundaries and antiquated systems and processes. This is totally unacceptable in a modern Firefighting system. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7

professional career firefighter's on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

I worked Black Saturday at Dandenong and responded to a fire in Cranbourne, I literally watched 11 homes suffer extensive fire damage because the area had been completely stripped of trucks and our nearest support crew was coming from Phillip Island(90km away). As a Firefighter this was heart breaking to watch and incredibly frustrating. All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighter's, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities. I firmly believe this reform will enable all Firefighter's a fresh start and put an end to years of bitter Industrial climates and turf war mentalities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform. Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighter's and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighter's because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me and my colleagues.

Regards,  
Aaron



**Aaron Johnson 25948 Leading Firefighter (LFF)**  
Frankston Fire Station 3 Cranbourne rd Frankston



Protecting lives and property



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.