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To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc "io3@ufuvic.asn.au."  
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bcc  
Subject Proposed Fire Service Reform

Dear Sir/Madam

I write this submission in support of the proposed fire reform. I am an employee of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade although I am currently undertaking a 12 month secondment program to CFA. I have been working at one of the "CFA Integrated" stations which has been the subject of much media speculation. Unfortunately there has been some information disseminated by some parties that is simply untrue. Some parties have claimed that if FRV is implemented, that surge capacity will be affected and volunteers will be removed from these stations. These claims are completely unfounded. I spoke with some of our volunteers here at Ballarat City who are the very people that are purported to be affected by the proposed changes. They have indicated that it will be business as usual for them and they don't intent to "quit on mass" as some people may have you believe. I would suggest that in relation to this claim, you may wish to consult volunteers who actually work with career staff at one of the 35 co-located stations and not volunteers that come from the other 1185 CFA stations that will remain as the status quo.

On a separate issue, as a Station Officer that has experience working in both CFA and MFB, I can absolutely assure you that the two organisations operate independently, using different procedures, equipment and staffing requirements. Surely the time has come to standardise our career Fire-fighting service so that we can work together more co-operatively and efficiently.

I get increasingly frustrated at the lack of interoperability between the two staff organisations both in equipment and administrative areas. These kinds of incompatibilities do not promote seamless service delivery and instead, creates layers of inefficiency in both services. If we could come together as one, learning from each organisations strengths and crushing the weakness, I truly believe Victoria could claim to have a world leading Emergency Service Organisation. An organisation that would stand ready to assist Victorians in a consistent matter no matter where the emergency occurs instead of a system that is underpinned by imaginary lines on a map that were drawn in 1958 which dictate the type of fire service and specialised technical rescue assistance that one receives.

Let us start moving forward and looking to the future instead of living in the past. FRV is the future of emergency response in this State.

Regards,



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