



"LOVELACE, Adrian"

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
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Subject Submission to Fire Services Bill Select Committee

To the members of the Fire Services Select Committee

As a community minded person that has lived and worked in both metropolitan and rural areas of Victoria and now as a professional fire fighter, I would like to make a submission for the committee's consideration.

The fire services provided in the current Metropolitan Fire District are regarded by many as world class. With a rapid response of highly trained personnel, ensuring the best result possible in peoples times of need. Whilst providing the fire fighters with the reassurance that there safety is also paramount.

Unfortunately the Metropolitan Fire District does not cover all metropolitan areas as it suggests, leaving many Victorians with a fire service that I believe, can and should be improved.

The proposed model, with Fire Rescue Victoria covering major metropolitan areas, will have improved response, especially in areas adjacent to the current boundaries of the MFD.

The current MFD boundaries were put in place when Melbourne was significantly smaller and the boundaries were truly outside what was considered metropolitan area, with the boundary running through mostly farmlands.

Melbourne has grown drastically since then and has been tipped by some to become Australia's largest and most populous city in the near future.

Now what was farmlands, has become part of this states great capital city, with large urban areas expanding to the west toward Melton and Bacchus Marsh, north toward Craigieburn and Whittlesea, east into the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley, and south through Dandenong Cranbourne and Frankston. These are places that are now considered urban areas, part of the greater city of Melbourne, yet the metropolitan fire district and the service expected within it, are not keeping up.

The proposed Fire Services Reform, would not only benefit these communities around Melbourne, there would be opportunity for improved responses to the larger metropolitan areas throughout the state, such as Geelong, Bendigo, and Ballarat which are fast becoming large metropolitan cities in their own right, and should be provided with equitable fire services, as are available in the states capital.

With the proposed changes the new CFA with its great number of volunteer fire fighters would still be protecting the majority of Victoria and its smaller communities, and with their essential surge capacity will be able to provide the number of fire fighters required with major incidents and bushfires, providing a service that could never be replaced.

There will be opportunity to improve the fire service service to the smaller communities of Victoria as well, with improved funding and training, and volunteers will still support career fire fighters on the boundaries of the new fire districts as they already do. And in turn would be supported by career fire

fighters when and where needed.

The Fire Services Reform gives opportunity for Victoria, to have what a world class fire service should be, allowing both career and volunteer fire fighters and their organisations, to work together to do what all fire fighters want, that is to protect and provide the best service to not just their own, but all communities.

Thank you for your consideration

Adrian Lovelace
MFB
Qualified Fire Fighter



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