



Ben Cogger [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Submission / Ben
Cogger

Please find attached my submission to the Fire Services Bill 2017

Regards,

**Ben Cogger Fire
Fighter**
Cranbourne Fire Station
8-10 Arundel Street
Cranbourne 3977



[REDACTED]
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Fire Services Submission Ben Cogger.pdf

Ben Cogger

[Redacted]

Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Dear Assistant Clerk Committee,

I am writing this submission in regards to the Fire Services Bill. Currently I am an employee of the CFA serving as a qualified Fire Fighter based at Cranbourne Fire Brigade in Melbourne's South East. I want to make clear that I am writing in support of this bill and below I have outlined the reasons for this.

The reasons that I support the bill are as follows, firstly the fact that the boundaries that determine response haven't been changed for almost 60years. Secondly the safety of crews in these urbanised areas would be greatly improved with the changes and finally that residents in these areas deserve the appropriate Fire Service considering the population and infrastructure within the stated zones.

The City of Casey of which Cranbourne is a part currently has a population of 311,021 with a predicted growth to 514,021 by 2041 it is Victoria's most populous municipality and is currently determined to be a country area of Victoria due to the fact that the boundaries have not changed in more than 50 years. It is obvious that even if you only looked at the sheer numbers in terms of population that this determination is clearly outdated and the structure that currently served this community is inadequate. If the changes proposed are not passed it will stretch the current structure to breaking point, with the results being a reduced quality of service to community members.

Another important consideration is to do with crew safety. With the amount of calls that are now being attended in these areas (Cranbourne attended 1184 call in the 2016-2017 financial year) it is simply not possible for some of the volunteer brigades to be able to dispatch crews with the right skill mix all of the time. This in turn leaves people like me in the position of possibly entering a burning structure with no further support or potential for further intervention if I myself were to get into trouble. If these changes were to pass it would allow 2 crews to be dispatched allowing me the extra safety of another crew with a known and appropriate skill mix hence improving my safety and the service simultaneously.

Finally due to the massive changes experience in Melbourne and the outer suburbs in both population and infrastructure the changing of the boundaries would facilitate the joining of two separate professional Fire Services. In doing so would enable alignment of processes that would in turn serve the community's better. It would allow members of the communities affected by the change to have guaranteed fire protection every time with crews that have the right training and experience to work within these now highly urbanised areas just as they do now with the current MFB area.

After nearly 60 years it is time to make a change that will reflect Melbourne's current and future population while also providing greatly improved safety measures for those who work in what is often a very hazardous work environment. With the main point being that the people that live in these areas being given a Fire Service that will protect and serve them to the best of their ability's.

With Respect

[Redacted Signature]

Ben Cogger