



Anthony Crea [REDACTED]

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF,

cc [REDACTED]

bcc

Subject Fire Services Reform Select  
Committee

Fire Services Reform Select Committee  
Submission

Anthony Crea

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Dear Fire Services Reform Select Committee,

I am a Qualified Fire fighter (QFF) working for the MFB. I have been a firefighter since 2013. Please find below my submission to your Select Committee. This is a great opportunity to share my experiences on the proposed changes to Victorias Fire services, and the level of fire/emergency protection Victorians are able to be given.

Outside of the varied and intensive qualifications and skills necessary to be a professional firefighter, I have also extended on my profession in the MFB. The fire brigade has given me the specialist qualifications to:

Respond to Emergency Medical Responses alongside Ambulance Victoria

Rehabilitation Appliance operator

Ladder platform Appliance operator

MkV pumper/pumper tanker and 60 Series Appliance operator

As I am an MFB professional firefighter, the vast majority of this reform will not have a great impact on my career personally. I am currently stationed in East Melbourne fire station (FS01) and have been for over 2 years. Before that I was at Malvern Station (FS24). None of these are fringe stations and do not turn out with CFA or volunteer appliances. However, from the Firefighters I have spoken to and worked with who this does impact, I feel this is highly important.

When I turn out on an appliance to a fire call, there is a certain level of response, skill set and manned appliances that are responded. There is no substitute to the highly trained and qualified response that the MFB delivers to those in the Metropolitan Fire District. These numbers, of minimum 7 on the fire ground, are essential for tasks wether it be entering a burning building, operating appliances, assisting in first aid response, appropriate and effective cover lines and fire fighting methods. The list goes on. These are time critical jobs. Jobs that do not wait for the right people to turn up , but in fact exponentially worsen as time passes.

To not have fire boundaries increased for decades, and compounded by several reports from all areas of development in this state, shows that population and urban growth is not being matched by appropriate fire services and response. This is not acceptable. I live in Mornington, on the Mornington Peninsula, deep within CFA territory. Mornington has a fire station with professional fire fighters, however it is subject to response failure, inadequate fire ground support and bordering stations are some distance away. The Mornington Peninsula is a very well developed and built up area. A subpar emergency service response is, for want of a better phrase, absolutely appalling.

I have had and currently have many friends who have served as CFA volunteers. The state of the fire service is not their fault in any way. They attempt to turn out and make every call they can, however in my area, and unfortunately across many areas of Victoria, the job has gotten too big for them. Fire fighting standards and methods have exceeded the basic training of volunteers and response times have proven to be the biggest factor in suppression and prevention in fire related incidence.

This job is not one that can be accurately measured by numbers of fire calls attended, but by the response time, skill level and standards brought by the crews attending said calls. It's high time Victorias fire services was increased and brought into the 21st century.

I wholeheartedly agree with the planned changes to the Fire Services Reform. Thank you for the chance to voice my opinion and concerns on the Fire services.

Regards,

Anthony Crea

Qualified Fire fighter FS01 D