



06/07/2017 04:15 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission for proposed Fire Service Reforms

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is [REDACTED] I have been employed by Metropolitan Fire Brigade since 1988. My current position is a Senior Station Officer and I am based at Footscray Fire Station. I have also acted into the role of Commander Operations A Platoon Western District and Commander Community Resilience Centre District. I have also been the Coordinator of two MFB Station Officer Courses. I am an OH&S rep and a senior member of MFB peer Support program.

I was involved as a junior with CFA and then a volunteer firefighter.

Please treat my name and identify only as confidential.

I am writing to support the Fire Services Reforms for the following reasons,

- The reform addresses current boundary deficiencies which bordering MFB and CFA stations could be better located using the MFB strategy location plan. This would address current CFA stations that are located on fringe of current boundaries allowing better response times with existing resources to more Victorians.
- The Greater Alarm response System (GARS) currently used by MFB should be introduced to provide a pre-determined response replacing the antiquated response tables used in built up urban areas drawn up by local captains. This will provide a better service to greater parts of the Victorian community.
- Model of response. It is imperative that the Officer in charge has confidence that the appropriate equipment and trained resources to deal with a Fire/Incident are despatched. This allows the Fire/Incident to be managed in a manner that provides safety to Fire-fighters and the community.
A minimum of 7 Fire-fighters fully trained in Structural Fire-fighting is paramount in urban environments. eg Breathing Apparatus.
- Surge capacity enhanced. Not reduced. Career Fire-fighters can provide fire cover at outer metropolitan stations where all Volunteers could be available to respond to protracted Fire/Incidents/ Bushfires. This will allow a standard of fire cover to be maintained.
- Fire-fighters morale, health and well-being are of high concern, due to the ongoing political division which has infested our industry over a number of years. As a peer support member I have noticed an increase in the amount of support required by Fire-fighters. This needs to stop. The reforms will make a difference by
taking the politics out of the Fire services. Broader support will be provided to all Fire-fighters.
- The CFA will be able to become a volunteer only organisation that will manage and support its volunteers. Volunteers will again have ownership of CFA.
- Fire-fighters due to the nature of their work environment are exposed over their career to numerous carcinogens. The proposed presumptive legislation will be a benefit to all Fire-fighters.

Growing up in rural Victoria I have seen the CFA change from a predominantly a volunteer service with minimal career staff to a service that has had to increase its staff to better respond to a greater amount of

calls because of urban sprawl and population growth. I believe this has changed CFA dynamics which has been to its detriment as they battle to manage career and volunteer firefighters. The Fire Service Reforms will allow the CFA to be returned to the Volunteers and the Victorian community will benefit by allowing career Fire-fighters to work in rapidly expanding areas with standardised equipment and systems whilst maintaining partnerships with Volunteers under the proposed reforms which provides a better standard of fire cover for Victorians.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.