



[Redacted]

07/07/2017 11:54 AM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission

1 attachment



Submission.pdf

Good Morning,

Please find attached my submission to the Fire Services Reform Committee. I request that my personal details be kept confidential.

Regards,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2017 11:49:54 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: statement

Begin forwarded message:

7 July 2017

Current Position:

MFB Professional Firefighter (Central Zone)

2 years

Previous Position:

CFA Professional Firefighter (District 14)

3 years

I believe the proposed changes by Parliament to Victorian's fire services will be the most positive in their history. The creation of a modern fire service is a very significant benefit to all communities across metropolitan and country areas of Victoria.

The current system has many flaws. Many which go unnoticed by the public. The CFA relies on the goodwill of members of the community to provide emergency response in their own personal time. This is not only unfair to those members of the community who are pressured to donate their time but unfair to the communities who rely upon them. The mix of skill sets of crews on a fire truck that has responded in a volunteer area can never be guaranteed to meet that of a professional Firefighter truck. This means some areas cannot even guarantee that their Firefighters have a qualification in Breathing Apparatus and are qualified to enter a burning building.

Crews of a Professionally staffed truck cannot even be guaranteed in some areas to be provided support by a second responding appliance. This may be because the adjoining volunteer brigade fails to respond. This is dangerous to both the community and professional Firefighters. I have witnessed this on many occasions.

It is time to modernise the Service and provide a higher level of support to peripheral, rural and regional communities who have forever relied on volunteers. I have witnessed large numbers of volunteers who struggle to respond to emergencies due to personal/family commitments, and volunteers who struggle to stay at prolonged fire campaigns due also to other commitments. This is the reality. People are happy to respond to a highly publicised fire or incident but they hardly stay for the duration. Relying on these volunteers is totally unsustainable.

There are many communities on the periphery such as Werribee, Tarneit, Melton, Craigieburn, Springvale and Dandenong to name a few, who deserve a higher level of fire and emergency response than they are currently getting. A professional fire service can deliver a maximum 8 minute response with a guaranteed minimum of 7 trained professional career Firefighters. These firefighters are also trained in emergency medical response and are first responders for such events as cardiac arrests.

The implementation of a review panel for areas of Victoria that may need increased fire service resources is long overdue. The needs of the communities must be put before the self interest of certain people. At the end of the day the community deserves a quick response from a highly trained team of professional firefighters when they are in their moment of need.

I grew up in a CFA area on the urban fringe of Melbourne. I have watched as the population has grown exponentially but little or nothing has been done to improve the fire services serving that community and its surrounds. Unfortunately both fire services have also been reactive and not proactive in their actions towards improving resources in growth areas. They have also been quite happy to continue along as they always have, because 'its always worked.' But we live in a totally different society today to when most of these operating procedures and policies of both fire services were created.

In conclusion I believe the time is now to take the opportunity to implement these proposed changes.

Please, provide a safer workplace for my colleagues, myself, a safer community for everybody, and lets move and adapt to the changing state of Victoria.

Thank-you for taking the time to read my submission.