



"ERWIN, Mark" [REDACTED]
07/07/2017 10:33 AM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission for fire services reform.

My name is Mark Erwin I am currently a leading firefighter at Nunawading fire station. My contact is [REDACTED]

I have been employed as a firefighter for last 31 years. I am an specialist operator of many vehicles, this includes 15 years in a road rescue function(car accident patient release and industrial incidents.)

In this period of time I have seen Melbourne metropolitan district expand and increase in population density significantly.

Drawing from my experience, I cannot under-estimate the importance of response times, it relevance is not just to the fiscally related loss of property but directly related to the sanctity and quality and preservation of life. Whilst I have utmost respect for the fact that Volunteer's give up their personal time, the basic response concept has now become out-dated in urban growth corridor's where the population density/risk has increased. Quick response times are imperative, "we need to evolve" for our communities sake.

I've seen first-hand what happens when there are delays in response times both from road/industrial rescue and fire rescue, I am not here to criticize volunteer's expertise or diligence, but genuinely believe the reforms proposed will be for the betterment of the communities firefighters serve here in Victoria.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas. Let alone the requirement for rapid response from a rescue perspective.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before

the commencement of the fire season.

This is important to me and my colleagues and I would welcome the opportunity to liaise with anyone about my personal experiences as a professional firefighter and why this reform is so important.

Kind Regards

**Leading Firefighter Mark Erwin | D Platoon
Nunawading Fire Station | Eastern District | South East Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board
365 Maroondah Highway Nunawading, VIC, 3131.**

E: [REDACTED]

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