



"WHITE, Patrick" [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 07:28 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Submission for Fire Services Reform

From: WHITE, Patrick
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 11:02 AM
To: 'LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au'
Subject: Submission for Fire Services Reform

To whom it may concern,

Please could you read the following and deeply consider when next asked what you think about FRV and the fire service review.

My name is Patrick White and I have been a professional MFB fire-fighter for 40 years. I am currently based at FS51 in the suburb of Keilor East.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform. Professional fire-fighters are the people called upon when the public is truly in need. So why, when we aim to enshrine safe conditions for ourselves - to ensure we have the best chance of going home to our families safely - do certain people feel it's their right to use us for their own political gains? Our brothers and sisters in the fire service are people of integrity and pride. We answer the call of those in their moment of despair, and sometimes we pay the ultimate sacrifice. Never before have we been attacked with such ferocity and falsehoods from so many directions, as we have in recent years. The fact is that Victoria's fire service is operating under a dated and fractured model. Our main aim is to deliver the best service possible to keep the people of Victoria safe. Fixing and modernising the fire service, in consultation with all major parties, is surely a major positive step forward.

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. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

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 fire-fighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

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

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself as a fire-fighter, 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 fire-fighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire-fighters 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.

I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to talk to you further about my personal experiences as a professional fire-fighter for over 40 years and why this reform is so important. I also want to state that my service to the public and my experience as a fire -fighter give me the integrity to speak honestly without bias about the fire service reform . These reforms are imperative to the safety of all fire-fighters as well as the safety and service to the public especially in the outer urban-fringe as well as major regional centres.

Please let the FRV have your vote;

Kind regards
Patrick White
Senior Leading Fire-fighter
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board

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