



"BUTTIFANT, Paul"

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Fire Services Review

From: BUTTIFANT, Paul
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 11:37 AM
To: 'LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au'
Subject: Fire Services Review

Dear Sir/Madam

Firstly I would like to keep [my name and identity](#) confidential.

My name is Paul Buttifant

I am a Station Officer with the MFB.

I have over 32 years' experience as an operational Firefighter.

During my service with the MFB, I have attained qualifications as a specialist Breathing Apparatus operator, a Fitness Leader and a Juvenile Fire and Intervention Practitioner.

I have received my Good Conduct and Long Service medals.

I have also received a commendation medal for attending the Black Saturday Fires of 2009.

I have been a member of the MFB Charity Running Club and was a participant in many charity runs during my career. Some of these being the Canberra to Melbourne Run April 2007, The Great Anzac Run 2008 which was Gallipoli to London and the Tour of Duty Run which was Los Angeles to New York 2010. The first two runs raised funds for the RSL and the third run raised significant monies for the families of the Firefighters killed in the 9/11 attack.

Currently I volunteer for my local suburban football club Northcote Park Football Club.

I live in Rosanna and work at the Northcote Fire Station.

I support the changes to our Fire Services.

Our Fire Services boundaries have not changed significantly in the last 60 years, areas that used to be open fields and farming areas are now heavily urbanised and residential.

I believe that areas which could have been managed by volunteers in the past have become too busy for them and deserve full time staff.

This is not a criticism of volunteers, I believe that the vast majority of them do a wonderful service to our community, however I believe it is expecting too much of them to service busy areas in outer Melbourne and our big regional cities. International studies have proven that a fire if not attended in 8 minutes can reach the point of flashover – the point of no return. Only Professional firefighters can guarantee that quick response.

It makes sense to integrate all the Full Time staff into the one service. One career fire service will strengthen firefighting capacity across the state, with the highest standards of training and equipment, including specialist emergency capabilities. I believe this will be a similar system to what New South Wales already has.

The presumptive cancer legislation is a very important legislation that needs to be passed.

Unfortunately I have seen many of my colleagues succumb to cancer which I believe they were exposed to from their years on the job. This overdue Bill will help compensate these firefighters who in the past have been cruelly denied assistance and support for their work related illnesses.

I believe that this Legislation should definitely be passed. I believe that this is bigger than just political point scoring. The safety of the community and the safety of our Firefighters is paramount. It has been widely reported that the State of Victoria and in particular are experiencing an unprecedented population boom which is putting great strain on Victoria's infrastructure. The fire services will also suffer as well if action are not taken urgently, Victoria's fire service needs to be modernised into a 21st century service that can look after the needs of our ever growing population.

Yours Faithfully
Paul Buttifant

[Redacted signature block]

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