



Philip McGilvray [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Services Bill Reform Committee
2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

I am Qualified Firefighter Philip McGilvray, employed by the MFB for 4 and a half years.

I currently reside in Frankston as an owner occupier, and work in Melbourne at Eastern Hill fire station.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the services because i believe that this reform will be the best thing for the safety off all Victorians and all Fire fighters, Professional and Volunteer.

I can attest to firsthand experience where having two separate fire services can be extremely negative to the community. The day of the Springvale commonwealth bank fire on November 18th 2016. As someone who was on Pumper 29(Clayton) and not responded to this call we all found it very confusing. On any normal day Springvale CFA (professional) and MFB PT29(Clayton) would be dispatched to this call, but on this day Clayton MFB were not dispatched due to a error with the CFA dispatch system that could not recognise that Clayton did not have their usual truck. So in turn Noble Park CFA (volunteer) were dispatched and failed to turn out (due to unknown circumstances), and Dandenong CFA (professional) were also dispatched but were at least 10 minutes behind how long it would've taken Clayton to arrive on scene, vital time when there were many, many injured patients at the scene, as well as the fire.

This is just one incident in a history of many that would be so much better with a revamped Fire services in Victoria. Operating as Fire Rescue Victoria situations like this would never occur. Going forward it is essential that there is a designated system that has Population density, housing density triggers, as well as certain infrastructure in certain communities that should make the need for minimum full time Professional Fire fighters with a two truck 7 fire fighter turnout essential.

Every Victorian that owns a house and pays their council rates also pay a Fire service levy; there is no Police service levy or Ambulance levy. So every Victorian is entitled so the same Professional service that they pay for. As someone who lives in CFA area (Frankston) why should my family be any less covered than someone who lives in Fawkner? There still will be many opportunities for Volunteer FFs in these built up areas

