



[REDACTED]
07/07/2017 03:48 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc [REDACTED]
bcc
Subject Submission to the Fire Service Reform
Select Committee

1 attachment



Submission.docx

Please find attached my submission to the Fire Service Reform Select Committee
Regards

[REDACTED]

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Service Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Re: Submission for the Fire Services Reform Select Committee

I am a Leading Fire-fighter with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade with over 27 years' service as a professional operational fire-fighter. I am currently stationed at Oakleigh Fire Station specialising in Heavy Rescue (Road Accident Rescue) and a Teleboom Operator. I also have an Associate Diploma in Fire Technology and Diploma in Frontline Management

I work in a highly urbanised residential and industrial area which has a modern urban fire service which I am proud to be part of.

I have lived in Mount Martha for over 25 years and have seen the ever increasing population growth from Patterson River all the way down to Mount Martha on my daily commute. The majority of the areas are serviced by Volunteer Brigades.

In Mount Martha we have a community minded and enthusiastic volunteer fire brigade. Nonetheless the fact is that they cannot respond to fire calls in the time which is required to contain the fire to a relatively small fire. Small fires turn into large fires if there isn't a timely response.

I work in a modern urban fire service and have a minimum of 7 fire-fighters turned out and responded to fire calls to maintain safe fire ground operations for both fire-fighters and occupants. My local full time professional fire brigade, Mornington have only 4 full time professional fire fighters on shift and need a minimum of 3 Trained and Qualified volunteers, if available, to turn up to the fire call for safe operations on the fire ground. Mornington do respond into my community, without the certainty of safe fire ground operations.

The ongoing lengthy industrial dispute is having a negative effect on me and my colleagues and I believe the only option we have to resolve this dispute is to merge the two professional fire services into one fire service. This will not have a negative impact on volunteers and the result for many communities is they will end up with superior world class fire service.

I request that the committee treat this submission confidential

Thank you

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