



**Richard Geluk** [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 05:30 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Please reform the fire service

1 attachment



FireReformSubmission.doc

To the committee,  
Please find attached my letter in favour of fire service reform .  
Sincerely,  
Heidi Geluk.

Heidi Geluk



6th July, 2017

Fire Services Bill Select Committee

To the Committee,

I am a resident in Croydon Hills. Prior to this, I lived in Chirnside Park.

I wanted to write to the Fire Services Select Committee to urge you to recommend reform to the Fire Services in Victoria. Change is needed.

The suburbs where I live have grown to be the home for tens of thousands of people. A volunteer service is simply inadequate to cover this. This is plainly obvious as I go about my daily life.

My children go to school in Mount Evelyn. I sometimes drive past the Lilydale Fire Station on my way to school. The morning traffic is very congested with Lilydale now boasting some 25,000 residents. It is not unusual for me to sit through three changes of traffic lights outside the Lilydale fire station due to traffic congestion. If volunteer firefighters have to make their way to the station from their places of employment or from their homes before changing into their gear and setting off in their truck, the time delays must surely be detrimental to the public desperately awaiting an emergency response to help them.

I recently spoke to a volunteer who lived in Lilydale but worked as a roadside RACV mechanic. He was very committed and keen to volunteer but, no disrespect to him, he cannot respond as quickly as a professional firefighter already at the station standing by the truck. There must be times when his work takes him so far from the station that responding becomes impossible.

I also spoke to a volunteer who is a white collar businessman working in the city. He admitted that he doesn't respond to calls during the week because during the day he is in the city and if he responded on week nights, he would be too tired to carry out his day job.

Outer Melbourne has too many people to rely on a hit and miss volunteer service like this. I respect that volunteers may serve the country areas well, but built up urban areas need a professional response.

Another matter to consider is that volunteers firefighters do not provide Emergency Medical Response. MFB firefighters have been providing this for years and the growing population living in the outer suburbs deserve to receive this care also.

Living in a CFA area, I pay a higher fire levy than those in the MFB area. Surely the growing population in the outer suburbs can support a much needed professional service.

Sincerely,

Heidi Geluk.