

Prue Purdey

From: YIP, Clarence [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 4:54 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to Select Committee Fire Services Bill 2017: from Clarence Yip Leading Fire fighter MFB

Dear members of Legislative Council Select Committee,

I'm Clarence Yip, Leading Fire-fighter from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB).
I'm currently stationed at Windsor Fire station and have been employed with this organisation for 13 years.

As a career fire-fighter I wish to explain the need for interoperable modern fire service response for the state of Victoria, that brings together one career fire-fighting agency with a volunteer fire-fighting agency that can work together.

One good example of interoperability that comes to my mind that shows different fire agencies working together is a large warehouse fire that occurred **on night of 2nd August 2012.**

Australian Paper Recovery: located in Norwest Ave / Oban Court LAVERTON NORTH VICTORIA.

It was a large factory warehouse sorting out paper for recycling that ignited due to electrical fault in a forklift / tractor.

The whole factory was engulfed in fire and it took well over 12 hours to suppress the fire.

It was a major structural fire with significant financial cost due to fire damage, but notably no injuries or deaths occurred as the premises was empty due to being night time.

Below is a link to a THE AGE news article which describes the incident and shows the large amount of fire-fighting resources the MFB & CFA utilised.

Also below is a 2 minute You-tube video giving a description of the incident.

Please note the actual video is filmed by CFA integrated crew of career & volunteers from CFA Point Cook (I believe) which I will describe a bit more shortly.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/2m-damage-bill-after-fire-races-through-recycle-site-20120802-23j6g.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCtYKEQpuyo>

or

<https://youtu.be/mCtYKEQpuyo>

The location of the incident is actually within the current MFB boundary by about 2 kilometres, so the MFB is the controlling authority for combatting this fire.

However due to this nature of CFA stations being close by, our command & control elements have no problems utilising another agencies resources from CFA whether it be career or volunteer.

CFA Point Cook is approximately 11 kilometres from this incident, which is closer than some MFB stations are from this incident, so it makes sense to use an appliance & crew that is close by to achieve the best possible outcome as soon as possible.

There is no room for old attitudes such as "*this is an MFB job we don't need the CFA*", because this is counterproductive to achieve our mission in the fire service, to save life & property.

If you look closely in the video, the CFA crew shows a helmet with a CFA volunteer Lieutenant, alongside a CFA career Leading fire-fighter working together.

The video doesn't show it, but I can state that this crew from CFA Point cook actually pumped water via hose to an MFB Ladder Platform appliances I operated, so we can and need to work as a team.

We were provided water supply both from an appliance from MFB Pumper 43 (Deer Park) and CFA Point Cook Pumper.

I know this because I was manning/operating Ladder Platform 1 (East Melbourne) appliance that night and spent approximately 10 hours at this fire, up in the cage of the ladder projecting a stream of water onto the factory fire to suppress it.

I was from MFB Windsor and was one of the Ladder Platform crews that relieved the first crew from Ladder Platform 1.

My MFB colleague and I would spend 2 hours up in the cage, rotating to ensure we had time out of the smoke, and period of somewhat rest during the significant fire fighting operation.

Our Ladder platform appliance doesn't have a pump to project water we need a pumper appliance to relay us water via hose to achieve this. CFA & MFB provided this capability for us.

There was once a time when a CFA appliances were not allowed to pump water to MFB appliances.

This is an out dated rule which serves no purpose in the modern fire-ground, if a fire-fighter is qualified and competent then we should work as a team and help each other.

The fact that this is an integrated CFA crew on the ground, feeding a water supply to an MFB Ladder Platform highlights the positive need for interoperability and demonstrates it works.

The Fire Services Bill would modernise and reform our fire service:

- Allow the suitable and timely response of fire-fighting resources both within existing MFB and CFA borders.
- Suit the expanding growth of Melbourne's urban towards Melbourne's future.
- Do away with the idea of "keeping jobs for the boys", and look to achieving the best possible emergency response outcome with resources available.
- Only go towards the future for interoperability.

In the event of similar factory warehouse fire of such large size **outside the MFB district**, then I would hope in this modern era that the **CFA would respond the same effort of resources** to ensure we can safely and effectively achieve our mission.

Heading towards a modern fire service system that can reflect the ever growing need of Melbourne would provide this correct response. The **old CFA/MFB model** with defined borders only presents **obstacles** on who is responsible combating authority, can we ask the other agency for some of their resources, can our appliances, equipment & radios be compatible etc...

This one fire that I attended is hopefully an example showing how an interoperable system can and needs to work.

I look forward into bringing all career fire-fighters under one agency that works as a fully functional interoperable team. I also look forward to mutually supporting our volunteer fire-fighting colleagues within our team, ensuring they have equivalent access to appliances, equipment, radios and other fire-fighting resources so we can work together.

Kind regards,

Clarence Yip.

**Clarence Yip | Leading Fire-fighter | Windsor Fire Station No.35 | "A" Platoon
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board**



*The MFB is committed to minimising its impact on the environment.
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

WARNING
This email and any attachment may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you are not authorised to copy or disclose all or any part of it without the prior written consent of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.
