

**Prue Purdey**

**From:** Alistair Le Serve [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2017 10:23 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Reform Bill

My name is Alistair Le Serve and I have been a professional CFA fire fighter for 5 years. After graduating from Country Fire Authority's training college at Fiskville I was stationed at Morwell Fire Station. I worked there for two and a half years which included the Hazelwood Mine Fire.

I spent eighteen months working at Pakenham fire station before transferring to my current work location based at Hallam fire station.

In my area of Hallam we have neighbouring support from career and volunteer stations depending on the location of an incident. When we have a fire or emergency the response varies. The response from other career stations is a guaranteed additional fire truck and crew, our response from volunteer trucks isn't. From our own brigades volunteers, or neighbouring supporting brigades the response varies from a fire truck with a full crew, through to no response at all. This response varies due to many factors. The biggest factors are peoples work commitments, and peoples family commitments, which limited their ability to respond to fire calls.

With reform of the fire services comes additional professional fire fighters at fire station and additional fire fighters responding to fire calls. Here at Hallam Fire Station we will receive an additional fire fighter for our primary fire fighting appliance. On my shift at Hallam we had one of our Leading Fire Fighter injured his back on Christmas day two Christmas's ago. It was 18months before he returned to operational duties. If we had an extra fire fighter then this injury may not of occurred.

I live in the country in a small Gippsland town with a population of several hundred people, which is vastly different to the "country" of Hallam where I work. The reform of the fire service will realign the fire districts to reflect the areas that are no longer country areas. Areas such as Dandenong and Springvale are areas that have not been country for a long period of time and have been labelled country incorrectly.

These changes will greatly improve the service delivery in these highly urbanised areas. Responding two fire trucks with 7 professional fire fighters into these areas gives the community the response the need with an 8 minute response.

These changes to the fire service benefit both volunteer and career fire fighters in today's growing community and allows volunteers to continue doing what they love to do.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a fire fighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform. Please base your decision on the facts and the benefit to the community not on scaremongering and poor information distributed throughout the media.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our fire fighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire fighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.



**Alistair LeServe | Qualified Fire Fighter**  
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alarms save lives.**



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