

**From:** Bruce Kane  
**To:** [LCSC](#)  
**Subject:** Fire Services Reform  
**Date:** Friday, 7 July 2017 3:24:37 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a currently serving member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and have been employed for the past 29 years as a Firefighter.

I wish to express my desire for the current proposed "Fire Services Reforms to proceed, as it is not only overdue, but imperative that the current model be updated to reflect both the growing population and urbanisation of both metropolitan Melbourne, regional centres and urbanised outer areas.

I believe that there is a discrepancy in the ability of fire services to respond in a timely and consistent manner in heavily populated areas outside of the current metropolitan fire district and this has concerned me for many years.

It also reflects an inequity in the level of service provided to the population in these areas, in particular the response times to structure fires and the fact that time is of the essence in these instances. It is my belief that this lack of consistent response times put both life and property at much greater risk.

I sincerely believe that the current system is fundamentally flawed and is based on a model, policy that was implemented in the late 1950's.

It is therefore time for this to be reviewed and changed as in my opinion it simply does not work, or reflect the needs of modern society. It also places many lives unnecessarily at risk.

It also demonstrates that there are inequities in what is actually provided to the community depending on where they reside.

For example, I live in a densely populated area, not within the metropolitan fire district and I pay the fire services levy the same as someone who lives in the metropolitan fire district. I however do not receive the same level of response as someone within the metropolitan fire district, yet I pay for this lack of service and inconsistent response.

My understanding of the introduction of the fire services levy was to fully fund the fire services, so I would like to see this revenue provided to the fire services to achieve a consistent and non discriminatory response.

I also believe that it is imperative that legislation is introduced to address this inequity, as the "volunteer" system introduced in the 1950's is extremely outdated and whilst I do not oppose the volunteer concept, it was never intended to provide the necessary coverage and protection to heavily populated regional areas, or urban fringes.

I believe that once an area/region reaches a predetermined level of density and population, it should receive a professional fire service, that is fully funded and not primarily reliant on volunteers. This is a service that I pay for and should be able to expect.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Kane

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