

Dear Ministers

My name is Mark Power and I am a serving firefighter with 31 years' service. I am currently stationed at Hawthorn fire station and hold the rank of Station Officer. I also possess the following qualifications

- Certificate 2 and 3 Public safety
- Certificate 4 Public safety
- Diploma in Public Safety
- Breathing Apparatus
- Ladder Platform
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Wildfire 1 and 2
- Teleboom
- Mark 3,4,5 Pump Operator
- Trench Rescue
- Emergency medical Responder

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the Fire Service reforms.

My knowledge and years of experience give me a great understanding of how both fire services operate in order to keep Victorians and safe.

As Metropolitan Melbourne has expanded over the last 40 years the permanently paid fire service has not. In the late 1970's a committee designed to adjust the fire boundaries as our population grew was disbanded allowing the growth of Melbourne to go unchecked with regards to prompt fire service delivery.

While the CFA Volunteers perform a fantastic role in the protection of rural Victoria the system they operate under does not allow them to protect the highly populated fringe areas in a timely manner. This has been well documented where Volunteers have had a delayed response or a no response to any call for an emergency. If these fringe areas continue to expand, more emergency calls are probable, increasing the pressure on Volunteers, their employers and families. This cannot continue. With fires taking hold of the 'room of origin' more quickly these days the public deserve the same response time from a fire service as I receive living in the inner suburbs.

These reforms will have no impact on Volunteers. They can and will still be able to turn out to emergency calls just as they have previously. Their role plays an important part in protecting Victoria. Nothing will change. This is about affording the same level of fire protection for all Melburnians and not just for the residents that live on one side of a fire boundary.

I implore you to reconsider your stand and support these Fire Service reforms. This, once again, gives every resident from sole occupant to families, the benefit of timely protection from any emergency they encounter.

I reiterate that I fully support these Fire Service reforms and I thank you all for the chance to have my say.

I hereby request that this document be kept confidential.

Yours sincerely

Station Officer Mark Power

Hawthorn Fire Station

