

To the Fire Services Reform Select Committee,

I am writing to put forward a submission for your consideration. My name is Jason Marsh and I am a Level 2 Firefighter for the MFB. I have been a Firefighter for 2 years and in this time I have been stationed on the fringes of the Metropolitan Fire District at both Mentone and Clayton Fire Stations. Both stations are within 20kms of the CBD.

In my time at these locations I have often attended calls in CFA areas with both staff and volunteers. This experience has given me great insight into how differently the services operate and how there is great room for improvement for both Firefighter safety and an improved service to the community.

As an example, last year we attended a call for assistance to a fire in a factory in Braeside (approx 25km from the CBD). This call was in a CFA area. On arrival we found the factory well alight and prepared for entry. Once the second appliance arrived, we went in to attack the fire. As I was on a 3 person appliance, I went in with a CFA member. To communicate with the person I was working with, I had to radio to my crew leader outside so they could then relay the information to the CFA crew. If you could imagine the incredibly hot, smokey environment we work in, we don't even operate on the same radio system! Remember this is only 25km from the city!

As our population increases, we need to grow with it. I believe the proposed reforms to our fire services will provide an even and rapid service delivery for all the metropolitan areas. I hope my submission helps make your decision to approve the Bill.

Regards,

Firefighter Jason Marsh
Clayton Fire station
Metropolitan Fire Brigade