

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

My name is Robert Ram and I am a Qualified Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I believe that the proposed reforms to the Fire Services in Victoria are necessary in order to provide Victoria with Fire Service it requires going into the future.

Melbourne is a rapidly growing city in terms of population and area. Due to the way houses are being built and furnished, houses burn with more intensity and more quickly than older homes which were many built with timber and brick. Quicker response times are needed more than ever before.

In a fire we follow procedures where recues are performed first then exposures are protected and so on, but due to a greater density of residential dwellings being built with these new building materials, we need these reforms done as you would not want to be stuck in one of these situations .This is where time is important and the matter of every minute can be the difference between someone losing their lives or having fire damage done to multiple properties, rather than fire being confined to the structure or even room of origin.

The Greater Melbourne Area deserves to have a modern fire service, where a response to a fire has a guarantee of a minimum of two fire trucks, not a fire service response that is struck in the 1950's and can be in parts, be patchy, due to volunteer response that either doesn't even respond, responds with inadequate crewing or can respond with firefighters without appropriate qualifications, such as BA operators. This endangers not only other fire-fighters, but the community as a whole.

Any Victorian knows that Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone places on the planet. The last thing that I or any Career Firefighter would want to see CFA's ability to respond to incidents in the country being hampered, but we also want to see the urban areas have a modern fire service with appropriate coverage, one that is safer not only for fire-fighters, but those living in the densely populated, ever expanding urban areas.

Sincerely,

Robert Ram.