

Kirra Vanzetti

From: CHRISTOFAS, Stanley [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 1:42 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Select Committee

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stan Christofas, and I am a professional Fire-fighter (MFB employee). I am currently based at MFB North Balwyn Fire Station.

I write to you to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

- I am an operational Firefighter.
- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.
- These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career fire-fighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.
- All Victorian, professional and volunteer fire-fighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.
- Furthermore i've observed what happens when we respond to Emergencies with CFA Volunteer's in an "Urban/Built-Up" area. There is often either a lack of "Turn-Out" response from some of the Volunteer Stations. In conjunction with this there is often a response by volunteers with inconsistent training who may not be trained in Structural Fire fighting, wearing of Breathing Apparatus, Hot Fire Training & Emergency Medical Response. (Some cannot even drive the Fire Trucks or operate the Pump on the truck). This puts professional Fire-fighters at risk as well as compromising the public's safety.

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.

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.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me and my colleagues.

Please keep my personal information confidential.

Kind Regards

Firefighter Stan Christofas | A Platoon
North Balwyn Fire Station | Eastern District | South East Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board



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