

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Chris Chuter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 2:27 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: re fire service reform

My name is Chris Chuter and I have been a professional MFB firefighter for 31 years and have attained the rank of Leading Fire Fighter. I am currently based at Nunawading fire station.

I am qualified as a operator of at least 5 specialized appliances including Heavy rescue and as all career fighters EMR (emergency medical response) qualified.

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

In my area of Croydon my family and our community can sleep well knowing that in an fire / incident emergency we can be rest assured that two fire trucks staffed by career firefighters protecting our neighborhood 24-7 365 days a year will respond and be on scene within 8 minutes, this response also includes the Emergency Medical Role commonly known as EMR that all of the MFB area and now in integrated CFA stations areas, performed by the career firefighters undertake.

It is reassuring for us as career firefighters to know that when responding to an emergency we know that we are backed up by similarly qualified career firefighters that we know will only be minutes away, this is vitally important when we have to do a search in a building fire for persons missing knowing that qualified backup is there to protect us in the event that something should go wrong.

At Nunawading our backup stations are all career staff stations, however there are a lot of urban fringe career stations that are not supported by career fighters, this is concerning because if you are responding with a volunteer brigade ,lets say during a week day when they are at work on holidays or due to other factors unable to respond for whatever reason, or if they are suitably qualified ie. Breathing Apparatus accredited so they can back us up if i am inside a burning structure performing a rescue of persons trapped or doing an internal fire attack to try and minimize fire damage to as little of the structure as possible. This qualified back up and on scene time shows up in the MFB statistics that structure fire are contained to room of origin almost 90% of the time.

Would not it be nice for all Victorians to have that peace of mind knowing that there would be 2 professional career fire trucks at their door within 8 minutes to preform rescues of loved ones, pets and possessions. Not to forget also have qualified career firefighters performing the EMR role within there community supporting the every increasing stretched ambulance service.

I know that in the real world this is not achievable but at least this reform will go a long way in protecting more of the community as it is the first job of any current political party to protect its citizens.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanized and residential. Lilydale, Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

These areas need to be modernized as they are highly urbanized areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanized areas.

All Victorians, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve a modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians, including me as a firefighter, 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 all Victorians, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls. Under this reform package volunteers will be assisted with recruitment and retention and station upgrades and will have no impact on surge capacity.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to this reform to modernize the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect firefighters both career and volunteer. 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, my family and the wider community.

Regards Chris Chuter

