

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** McBRIDE, John [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 2:37 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Reform Submission.

Please find attached a copy of my submission to the Fire Services Reform select committee.

My Name is John McBride.

I have been a professional fire fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for 29 years. I hold the rank of Station Officer which I attained in 1994.

I hold an Associate Diploma in Fire Technology which I completed in 1995.

I am a HART Technician. (High Angle Ropes Techniques)

I am currently base at Richmond Fire Station.

I write to express my support for the proposed Fire Services Reform.

- I live in Mooroolbark, a suburb that has a volunteer only CFA brigade to provide fire service delivery. Mooroolbark grew dramatically in the early 60's. The vast majority of houses in the area reflect this era, being built with the typical cream brick veneer & aluminium windows on ¼ acre blocks. No one would refer to Mooroolbark as 'country'; it is a well-established suburb of Melbourne, but the fire coverage has not kept up with the growth of this suburb. There have been many 'failure to respond' to fire calls over the period of 7 years I have lived there. This is just a snap shot what is happening around the outer urban areas of Melbourne. The Fire Services Reform will address these types of inadequacies that have been created on the outskirts of Melbourne along with large regional areas.
- Over my career, I have also been stationed at Croydon Fire Station & witnessed firsthand when the volunteer brigades, which surround the turnout area of Croydon, arrive on scene well after the MFB appliances arrive even when in the volunteer brigades own area.
- Victoria's fire service boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country' with regard to fire service coverage, despite being heavily urbanised & residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia & 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 trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.
- All Victorian, professional & volunteer fire fighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

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 all the communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our fire fighters & stop the ever increasing & unrealistic demand being placed on volunteers because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increasing 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 & implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to both myself & my colleagues.

Regards,  
John McBride.



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