

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** John Tipping [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 9:58 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Bill

My name is John David Stewart Tipping and I am employed as a Senior Instructor with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and my work region is CFA West based in Ballarat.

My main role is to instruct over many general and specialists courses to both CFA volunteers and CFA career staff from operational ranks and from administration support staff and management. I am also required to utilise my expertise and instruct members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) when required.

I have over 38 years experience as an Operational fire fighter with the organisation of Department of Water Land and Planning, Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Country Fire Authority. I feel I am able to make this submission with a vast amount of experience as both an Operational fire fighter and Senior Instructor.

The fact that the current arrangement for the two fire services, the CFA and MFB has been in place since the early to mid 1900's and has never taken into account the rapid population growth infrastructure development and community needs for a seamless emergency management structure is a Government Act that is well beyond its use by date and requires immediate modernisation . The current CFA and MFB Act DO NOT reflect the current Victorian communities needs, both in rural and urban areas. I have taken the opportunity to discuss the current MFB and CFA operational areas with many family and friends and not person agrees with the current arrangements for emergency response within Victoria particularly in the areas where we now have highly urbanised structures. The community are confused with the long established emergency management.structure.

A further point I wish to raise in support of the Fire Services Bill is with the formation of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) the ability to provide worlds best training and assessment that is consistent, fair and equitable to all members within FRV. To further clarify is simply to state that all current career CFA and MFB operational staff will be have the one training regime under FRV. This will also enable cost savings with no doubling up of training props and training materials. Other savings can be gained from courses that are conducted with minimal attendance . This attendance will be increased due to the increase in numbers in the one organisation. No longer would there be a need to conduct training for the CFA separate to the MFB with minimal numbers on both. One course would be conducted with maximum numbers on the course as the course would be consistent in learning outcomes to the newly formed FRV.

Other savings would be gained by no longer requiring interagency liaison officers, interagency workshops, interagency working groups such as gear and equipment, operational vehicles and interagency training meetings, this is to name just a few that currently exist between both CFA and MFB. The fact the elected government would only have requirement to negotiate one FRV EBA rather than the current two CFA and MFB EBA's must in itself be seen as a minor positive with the formation of FRV.

The CFA have an extremely dedicated volunteer force however this force is different from the professional operational staff in the requirements of a high level of training undertaken by the professional operational staff. I say this with over sixteen years of conducting all levels of training to all levels of volunteer and professional operational staff. This fact cannot be denied and should never be seen as a disrespect to any volunteer.

As I live in a rural environment, I rely on volunteers in several emergency management authorities. It has to be clearly articulated that the formation of FRV will have NO impact on the role that these volunteers under take.

The current industrial dispute that has split the CFA, as it has, has resulted in my work place where I work as professional very difficult. The current Industrial environment was build on misunderstanding, misinformation and mischief from several sources but was used by the Federal Liberal government and some members of the VFBV to create a level of disharmony within the CFA. This disharmony will always remain, as the damage done to many with regards to the constant vilification of professional operational staff was a disgrace and at times sanctioned bullying . The media , in particular the Herald Sun, also created an environment of lies and hysteria for its own political needs and should be held accountable for this unethical reporting.

In closing I will again state that the formation of one fire service, FRV, of full time professional emergency management staff is long overdue. It has been suggested, rumoured, planned, workshopped, scoped and costed by both political parties over many many years, with no political party strong enough to introduce the necessary required change. It is now that we have a situation where the need is not only to meet community needs and expectations but also to meet the changing face of the Industrial scene we have been subjected to unnecessarily.

Regards

John Tipping  
Senior Instructor  
Country Fire Authority

Postal address

