

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to **express my support** to Reform the fire services in Victoria.

As the Metropolitan Fire District has expanded in building and population, the resources have not grown with it.

I live on the fringe of the MFD and CFA boundaries. I also work as a firefighter. On a number of occasions the response to incidents in these boundary areas has been excessive (greater than 7.7 minutes) due to a reliance on volunteers where the built environment and population density is the same from one side of the MFD to the other side being the CFA region.

Differences in procedures for the CFA volunteers and MFB firefighters also creates issues, with different hose and hydrant and hose fittings from one side of the boundary to the other, among other differences in command and control procedures and hierarchy at critical incidents has caused delays, errors and confusion that could have been avoided.

Sometimes there is either no response by volunteers or an appliance/truck attending but with only one volunteer on board so that they couldn't drive code 1, with lights and sirens, resulting in a delayed response and insufficient personnel on the foreground in order to conduct operations safely. There have been several near misses due to these problems and inconsistencies on overlapping fringe areas.

I believe that the boundaries for fire protection needs to be expanded due to population growth, urban sprawl and community expectations of response times of a minimum number of qualified Breathing Apparatus operators to a firecall or other emergency, including Emergency Medical Response by Firefighters.

The issue of presumptive legislation needs to be passed rapidly to protect firefighters and their families for the sacrifice of protecting others in the community. Firefighters have a higher level of risk than other community members of contracting cancers, a sad statistic that some of my close colleges have paid the ultimate price for.

Thank you for reviewing this important direction for the fire services to modernising the service.

Regards,

Glenn Hobday

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