

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 4:14 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform

To whom it may concern

My name is Brendon Naylor, I am an Operational Firefighter currently at the rank of Station Officer with the MFB. My normal posting is Nunawading Station but am currently seconded to Operational Training delivering the New Forcible Entry Tool to MFB firefighters soon to be placed on operational appliances to assist with entry to vehicles factories & structural doorways, which will mean greater protection to the community & faster entry to structures meaning a greater saving to the community as a whole. In my 32 years of service to the community I have seen many changes, most notably the increased population density, the busier roads and the increasing reliance on infrastructure and technology.

In my home District of Eastern we have a very large border with the CFA & have often had dealings with both career and volunteer CFA Brigades.

As a Station Officer with the MFB I fully support Fire Service reform for the following reasons:

- 1 It's a model that will allow the Fire and Emergency Service to grow as Metropolitan Melbourne grows. (Particularly in its growth corridors)
- 2 It has the provision to provide a world class service to all Victorians not just those living in the current Metropolitan Fire District of Melbourne
- 3 The Fire Service Reform will allow Volunteer firefighters the rights they desire and deserve
- 4 Rapid Response to Emergency reduces the impact of that emergency on the community. This is particularly the case when dealing with incidents on arterial roads, Critical Infrastructure and communication and technology Networks for example
- 5 It will greatly increase the number of Victorians covered by the EMR program meaning more lives saved.
- 6 it will have no impact on Volunteers in Surge capacity for Bushfire.
- 7 With a response of 7 BA trained firefighters to all structure fires, this will provide greater safety to the firefighters on scene meaning a much safer workplace & less injury.
- 8 Presumptive legislation for work related cancer will be available to all firefighters irrespective of whether they are career or volunteer.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have no significantly change in the last 60 years. Under this antiquated & outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential.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 firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

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

I live in Ferntree Gully & I also fully support Fire Service Reform

I live in CFA area & have a strong appreciation for the valuable contribution that local volunteers make to their community. I find it hard to accept however that in the 21st century, areas of Metropolitan Melbourne have an antiquated and slow response to emergencies. I do not understand why I pay a higher Fire Service Levee than people that live with in the MFB boundaries. They receive an expedient professional response to emergencies as well as Emergency Medical Response (EMR). I am sure you aware what a fantastic program EMR is. Due to the time critical nature of this service it can only be provided by Full-time Firefighters.

As a resident of Ferntree Gully I am frustrated that in one fire service area can guaranteed response time of 7.7 minutes at the 90th percentile is the standard. In Ferntree Gully, if my house catches fire I know it will most likely be lost or at the very least severely damaged due to the fact that the response times are poor as the volunteers, as they have to stop what they're doing drive to the fire station, wait for a driver and crew, drive to the scene and get to work. (hopefully there are some BA wearers that can do internal firefighting or rescue). This is far from acceptable in this day and age.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself 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 your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will aide to ensure a greater 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 increase.

There has been a lot of negative press around the Fire Service reform. It is all unfounded. I firmly believe that it is in the best interest of all Victorians and it will bring us in line with other modern Fire Services worldwide. A recent study found Melbourne is growing at a faster rate than Sydney, we must allow the Fire Service to grow with it.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my submission. I sincerely hope you vote in favour of moving Victoria forward.

Your sincerely

Brendon Naylor | Station Officer
Eastern District | South East Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board
100 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, VIC, 3166.



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