

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Wendy and Pete Schilling [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 5:15 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: 'Wendy and Pete Schilling'
Subject: Fire Service Bill

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members

Thank you for the chance allowing me to have my say.

I am the wife of an MFB Leading Fire Fighter of 30 years and a resident of Mooroolbark, Vic. I support the proposed Fire Services Bill and much needed reform.

Melbourne's urbanization has changed dramatically over the past 40 years. The concept of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) is overdue and will offer a safer community and workplace for our firefighters. The reforms take into account the needs of our city, it's outlying areas and will better adjust emergency services to Victoria's needs.

To me, FRV is offering Victoria a modern Fire Service which will provide a better service to our expanding suburbs, as well as a safer workplace for Fire Fighters. As the partner of a Professional Fire Fighter, I hope FRV will remove the wedge that has divided professional and volunteer staff. There is a profession that should be celebrated; unfortunately over recent years the media have turned much of the community against those who protect them.

The CFA should be reverted to what it's name suggests – serving country Victoria. Volunteer Fire Fighters roles are very much required and respected in country areas. There will be no change to the CFA volunteers due to the Fire Services Reform. This will also prevent the ongoing threat to professional Fire Fighters of being impacted by an EB Agreement which does not relate to their volunteer counterparts.

The suburb I reside in is serviced by the CFA – Mooroolbark CFA Station is entirely volunteer manned. I note that I pay the same Fire Levy as those who live in suburbs protected by the MFB, receiving generally faster response times as well as EMR Service.

I encourage the Select Committee Members to endorse the Fire Services Reform and thank you again for the opportunity to be heard.

Yours Sincerely
Wendy Schilling

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