

Kirra Vanzetti

From: LOBB, Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 5:35 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

My name is Murray Lobb, and I am employed by the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.

I have been employed by the MFESB for just over 28 years, (I joined in April 1989) in which time the profile of Melbourne and its North and Western Suburbs has had significant change and growth. I am a Station Officer currently rostered to Pascoe Vale Fire Station , but rotate throughout the Northern Suburbs which covers suburbs from Brunswick to Somerton and also from Tullamarine to Greensborough.

I also have the specialist qualification of Heavy Road Rescue (jaws of life).

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

The profile of Melbourne and its suburbs has had major changes and growth in my time as a Fire Fighter for the MFB. In my first hand experiences I believe that the proposed changes take place for the Communities Safety and well-being. This is not a Political Opinion but one of concern for the Communities in which we serve. Whilst on shift, if my home was to catch fire or my loved ones were trapped in a vehicle I would demand that the closest Emergency Services respond to protect the life of my wife and two young children. I do not want them to be a Political Pawn where Politics kick in and dominates which appliances respond to the emergency in place of the two closest available appliances. Everyone in our community deserves that right. Unfortunately this is NOT the case as you sit and read my submission. This is a very sad reflection on both the MFB and CFA as it is today. This needs to be addressed and changes implemented immediately.

I believe in the role of Volunteer Fire Fighters, I also believe in Community Safety. Somewhere now we need a balance, currently what we have in place is very out dated and does NOT in my opinion protect the community as well as it should and could. I have relations in Country Victoria and support and encourage their involvement in their local CFA. We NEED volunteers but the role of the volunteer should not override the safety of your family or mine. If you call Triple Zero, you expect the closest Emergency Appliances to respond, unfortunately for some parts of Melbourne this is not happening. It is time to change the current model and move forward to protect your family and mine.

In December 2013 I was the Station Officer at Broadmeadows Fire Station. During this time I was responding with Craigieburn CFA into Roxburgh Park. This is an example of where Community Safety was put aside for Politics. Greenvale CFA had a Permanent Crew available but was not responded, Somerton MFB also had an appliance available but was not responded. Both Greenvale CFA and Somerton MFB would have been on scene 7 minutes faster than Broadmeadows, but the Assignment of appliances chose Craigieburn CFA permanent and Craigieburn Volunteer appliances with Broadmeadows MFB responding. This is an insult to those that live in this area and not for one second had any value on the community of Craigieburn.

In February 2013, I was on duty at Tullamarine Fire Station. There was a large house fire in Greenvale around lunchtime. Two elderly residents were lucky to escape, I was NOT turned out for this call as it was in CFA Area. The appliances responded to this call were Greenvale CFA Permanents, Greenvale CFA Volunteers and Broadmeadows MFB. We watched as Broadmeadows drove along Johnson Street within 300 metres of the Tullamarine Fire Station and responded to this call of a Structure Fire with possible persons trapped. The two closest appliances were Greenvale CFA permanents and Tullamarine MFB. We were not requested to attend, this is a disgrace and a total lack of care for the community of Greenvale. Tullamarine MFB Station was approximately 4 Kilometres from the fire but not requested to respond. If this was your parents, children etc would you accept this or would you recommend reforms take place ??

This reform is a long time overdue, and the safety of the community should be paramount and above politics. I am happy to talk about these incidents mentioned above along with other examples I could also talk about. This is just two of the many examples that are happening today !!

Yours sincerely,

Murray Lobb



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