

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

My name is Shane Madden and I live Ocean Grove, I am currently a level 1 Firefighter with the CFA and have been stationed at Ocean Grove Fire Station since graduating from Recruits.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services of Victoria as I see it as a positive step in the right direction to delivering the state of Victoria a modern adaptable fire service that is equipped to evolve with the ever changing landscape to ensure the safety and protection the community expects and deserves.

In my short time in this career I have unfortunately only known the current turmoil in trying to negotiate a current EBA and seen the effects first hand it is having on the wellbeing and moral of my fellow workers and in some cases the divide that it has caused which is flamed by the constant demonization of career staff in the media through political agenda driven and ill-informed reporting.

The 35 integrated stations that will be affected by this reform all fall in highly urbanised areas and most of the volunteers at these locations see it as a welcome reform that will provide better service to the community which is what we at the end of the day as a fire service should be all about. The remaining brigades will remain as they are today and receive increased funding to help drive and increase in volunteer numbers.

The positives that I see coming from the reform will be the ability to evolve the services as required as the urban sprawl increases, and alleviate the pressure on areas where it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the demands being put on volunteer services due to the increase in jobs/turn-out numbers.

At the end of the day whether its career or volunteer staff that are responding to an incident it is irrelevant, as long as we are getting feet on the ground early enough to help nullify the impact on the community and in sufficient numbers that it is safe to do so and not put people's lives at risk.

I hope that in the end common sense prevails, after every commission of every major incident we have had here in Victoria it has been recommended that the fire services in Victoria require reform. I hope that the people making the decisions here can look past their personal political agenda and do what is right for the safety of Victoria.

Yours sincerely,

Shane Madden

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