

Kirra Vanzetti

From: chris payne [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 3:50 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to FIRE SERVICES BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017

Dear Committee Members,

I believe that the restructuring of the current fire services boundary is a good idea.

My name is Christopher Payne and I am a firefighter with the MFB, and in 2 months I will have completed 30 yrs service.

I have worked at many fire stations in my career, and have on occasions turned out with career and volunteer CFA firefighters.

During my career I have experienced many changes as the MFB has attempted to update management structures in order to provide the best service model possible.

I have also seen the major improvement to service delivery provided by the introduction of the Victorian Disaster Management Plan, which enables the successful operation of the different emergency service providers, including 'who is in charge' of what areas when operating together.

The government of the day was able to understand that the service delivery of the separate emergency services organisations was improved by a structure/plan that combined those separate emergency services organisations.

I believe that the restructuring of the current fire services boundary will improve the service delivery of the separate Victorian fire services – Metropolitan Firefighters, CFA Career Firefighters and CFA Volunteer Firefighters.

It is exciting for me to envisage that, before I retire, I may see a combined career fire service that will bring Victoria up to date, and better able to respond to Victoria's rapid growth and evolution.

I have been able to see the improvement of service delivery provided when CFA and MFB career firefighters operate together since the introduction of such initiatives as the combined training facility at VEMTEC, in Craigieburn.

Since I started my career I have seen the improvement of service delivery provided by the provision of 'interoperability' between MFB and CFA firefighters with regards to MFB firefighters operating in CFA areas, and CFA firefighters operating in MFB areas.

The Victorian community deserves the best fire service model that can be provided. One service that can most effectively combat both the worst bushfires, and the worst urban disasters such as the Coode Island Fire.

I believe that one fire service that combines MFB and CFA career firefighters will provide better service to the Victoria community than the best that the two separate services current provide.

The Disaster management Plan was introduced to improve emergency service delivery between the emergency services. 'Interoperability' was introduced to improve service delivery between MFB and CFA, but it was just a step in the right direction.

Fire Rescue Victoria - one fire service that combines MFB and CFA career firefighters is the next step. It is time to move away from the old, out-dated model of fire service delivery in Victoria.

Thank you.

Christopher Payne

Acting Station Officer

MFB

Phone No: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]