

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Justin Pattinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2017 7:43 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Reform

Dear members of the Parliamentary Committee,

I am writing to you with the hope my submission will help provide a better understanding as to why Fire Service Reform in Victoria is so desperately needed.

My name is Justin Pattinson and I am a Leading Firefighter in the MFB. I am currently stationed in Sunshine and have been employed as a firefighter for 16 years.

A lot has changed over that time, none more so than the increasing population. Sunshine, and most of the western fire district was undeveloped grasslands. Now it is a hive of homes, industry and busy motorways. The rate of increase not only in the West, but all of Victoria is extraordinary.

Even more extraordinary though, in almost 60 years, the Fire Service Boundaries have not changed. Many outer metro/urban areas are wrongly zoned "country", which means they don't get the fire service response that busy urban areas need. A few minutes extra where fire is concerned the consequences are devastating.

I live in a CFA area, rural Victoria. I have friends in both CFA volunteers and CFA professionals.

I respect them greatly. We have worked together on many occasions with great success, as comrades... Unfortunately, the media has twisted the truth about the proposed reform, thereby causing strain on our relationship. It has been a difficult period for myself and family.

However, once explaining the truth about fire service reform, that being no adverse changes, no effect on volunteer surge capacity, volunteers remaining at co-located station as they do now, and the role of a volunteer further enshrined as law, their concerns are diminished. Reform will help reduce the pressure off volunteers in urban areas, where the demand for emergency services is higher.

Victoria's current Fire Service model is out-dated. People, properties and firefighters are at risk. The state urgently needs Fire Service Reform to keep pace with change, and ensure all Victorians receive the highest level of protection possible.

This is your chance to 'create history', to look back many years from now and say, Victoria is a better place. We gave life to 'Fire Rescue Victoria'!

I would be happy to answer any questions via phone or in person.

Kind Regards,

Justin Pattinson  
[REDACTED]

