

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Damien Perry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 11:36 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission-Fire Services Bill Select Committee 2017

Assistant Clerk Committees

Department of the Legislative Council

Fire Service Bill Select Committee

Parliament House, Spring Street

East Melbourne.

Mr Damien Perry

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Mob. [REDACTED]

2/7/2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Damien Perry, I live in Essendon and I am a professional Leading Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

I have been an urban and rural emergency services responder for almost 32 years. Serving in the CFA in a volunteer capacity from 1986 to 1991 and the MFB as a full time trained professional from 1989 to current.

As a professional firefighter I specialise in the area of Marine Response.

I support the fire services reform to assist in facilitating an adequately resourced fire service that fulfils its statutory legislated responsibilities.

Currently in the MFB's area of responsibility there is only 1 crossed crewed fireboat to cover approximately 1000 square kilometres that includes one of Australia's largest and busiest ports.

As a crossed crew appliance, if the fire appliance is dispatched to a land based call then the marine coverage ceases to exist until the crew is available again.

The fireboat crew cannot safely implement the MFB's own work procedures and practices due to the limited resources.

Currently the Country Fire Authority do not have a marine firefighting capability in the Geelong Port/Corio Bay area. Fire service reform will support a consistent standard of fire cover statewide determined by risk.

My wife and I also own property on the Bellarine Peninsula and in recent years this area has recorded unprecedented population growth.

Along with this growth there has been construction of large new supermarkets creating high density shopping zones, increasing areas of commercial factory activity, schools and age care facilities with more planned and being constructed.

Our local fire and rescue coverage is all volunteer with 1 permanent crew at Ocean Grove.

These volunteer organisations are experiencing added responsibilities and pressures of maintaining coverage of a large expanding communities with a resultant increase of fires, incidents and emergencies.

Unfortunately these volunteer organisations in urbanised areas are failing to reach the CFA's own minimum service delivery targets.

This is not a poor reflection on the dedicated work of volunteers that serve their communities but evidence of a stagnated & failing system that is not evolving at the same rate as the communities it protects.

Broadly addressing the stated four Terms of Reference:

It is my opinion that the proposed changes to the Victorian fires services can only have a positive impact and serve to enhance the operations of all services involved within this state.

The proposed volunteer only Country Fire Authority will only stand to gain from this reform with legislation that enshrines their role and importance to the state of Victoria.

Removing the ambiguity from the industrial relations will facilitate stronger and more cohesive working relations between the proposed organisations.

I respectfully request the Fire Services Select Committee review this legislation favourably to enable Victoria to have modernised and dynamic fire services, that will be ready to serve Victorians as needed moving into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this review.

Regards

Damien Perry