

Kirra Vanzetti

From: shane harding [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 6:58 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fwd: Fire Service Reform and Presumptive Legislation

Dear Committee,

My name is Shane Harding and I have been a professional MFB firefighter for 38 years. I am currently based at Preston fire station.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I've seen first hand what happens when professionalism is not in place, an example in which I was front line was 25 years ago at a large Vinyl Chloride leak at B.F.Goodrich in Altona, which myself and my crew were exposed to, unprotected, until an Industrial Chemist arrived on scene approximately an hour later. Once aware, some procedures were implemented. (Personally 10 years ago I was diagnosed with prostate and melanoma cancers). However fast track to the present, this situation of dealing with a Carcinogenic incident of this nature would most likely be avoided due to the procedures and resources in todays MFB and CFA "PROFESSIONAL" fire services. We have come a long way to achieve this Professional level.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to myself and my colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Shane Harding
MFB Station Officer
Preston Victoria