

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Michael Pratt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 1 July 2017 9:17 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Victorian fire service reforms

Dear Honourable Member,

My name is Michael Pratt, I live at [REDACTED], my fire protection comes from Eltham CFA which is an integrated station and they have backup from MFB Greensborough fire station. I believe Montmorency should have 24/7 professional fire protection because of its dense population growth.

I have been a professional MFB firefighter for 30 years. I am currently based at Thomastown fire station.

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

- In my area of Thomastown I frequently go to jobs in areas that were once 'the country'. These areas are Epping, South Morang, Craigieburn, Greenvale and Roxburgh Park. These suburbs of Melbourne can no longer be regarded as country areas in my opinion.
- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated 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 me 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 me and my colleagues.

I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to talk to you further about my personal experiences as a professional firefighter and why this reform is so important.

Kind regards Michael Pratt

Reg. Number 4165