

Prue Purdey

From: tim badrock [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 12:00 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: fire services reform

Categories: CONTACT DETAILS REQUIRED

Dear Committee members,

My name is Tim Badrock a professional firefighter of 31 years in the MFB

I am writing to you today to show my support for the proposed restructure of the Fire services in Victoria. I have been stationed at Croydon fire station for 20 years and regularly respond to emergencies with volunteer brigades from Bayswater, Montrose , Wonga Park and Chirnside Park.

We have an excellent working relation ship between the services but i am constantly reminded of the difference in response times to emergencies between the Volunteers and Professionals.

It is obvious that Professional firefighters ready to respond to emergencies at an instant and volunteers going about there personal activities, whether its cleaning the gutters on their roof , shopping or dropping the kids of at school cannot respond as quickly an efficiently. Every minute is critical in an emergency, This is not an attack on volunteers personally but an attack on the system, This is fact.

I also live in an area protected by volunteers, I appreciate their efforts in protecting Montrose , however I am very concerned of the time it will take for firefighters to be at my house in an emergency. I also pay a higher fire service levy to my neighbors that are protected by MFB firefighter, they not only get full-time professional firefighters but also Emergency medical support which professionals do.

I understand it is not possible to have the whole State covered by full time professionals but Melbourne has grown and population and density into the suburbs warrants a full-time protection.

Victorian residents need and deserve this restructure, it will not impact on volunteers but it will impact on a Victorians safety. I remember when MFB took on the role of medical response and the Ambulance officers felt we where taken their jobs, once they could see that it was all about helping the community and actually enhancing the ambulance service they came on- board. Today we have a fantastic bond with the ambulance officers and I believe the same will happen with the volunteers.

I am willing to talk to you or any of your colleges of my experience as a firefighter if it will help you in endorsing the proposed changes.

Your Sincerely
Station Officer Tim Badrock
Ringwood Fire Station and Montrose Resident