

Prue Purdey

From: Andrew Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 2:47 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Bill

To the Fire Services Reform Bill Committee,

My Name is Andrew Dixon and I have been a professional firefighter in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) for 28 years. I currently hold the rank of Commander. My specific job description is Operations Commander Northern District B Platoon and I have direct responsibility for the operation of 12 fire stations and around 60 firefighters.

I believe that the current emergency response arrangements don't provide the best service delivery model for communities across Victoria, particularly to those on the urban/rural response interface and the larger regional areas.

Under the proposed new legislation, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) will transition to 82 stations and 2800 career firefighters. FRV will still work beside CFA brigades; co-located rather than integrated. A guaranteed response will be provided 24/7 52 weeks a year which will include an Emergency Medical Service response capability to support Ambulance Victoria in areas that FRV will service.

Community expectations have changed and fire service reform is essential to ensure the community is provided with a contemporary service delivery model. It must reflect the changing demographics of communities and risk profiles of the areas in which they live. This is particularly evident in the growth corridors surrounding Melbourne and the larger regional areas. The proposed reforms will provide flexibility within legislative framework to allow the FRV footprint to expand to meet the changing needs of the community the as the risk profile changes.

I would ask that you support the restructuring of Victoria's fire services and ensure Victorian communities are protected as the sector grapples with meeting the challenges of population growth, urbanisation and changing community expectations and participation.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this submission on [REDACTED]

Regards

Andrew Dixon