

To the Select Committee and staff,

My name is Daniel Peacock and I am a Qualified Firefighter with the CFA, and I write to you today to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of Cranbourne, there is an extra 70 extra people moving to the area each week. This enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls and ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire-fighters in the City of Casey means that residents have never been more at risk. Cranbourne Fire Brigade's call rate alone has nearly doubled in 7 years from 596 to 1074. This has placed enormous demands on CFA brigades which has meant that sometimes resources required are unavailable to respond, don't respond in their allotted turnout time or don't have the necessary competencies to do internal fire attack or wear breathing apparatus. The volunteers at Cranbourne do an outstanding job however the pressures they now face make it unsustainable to proceed with the same service delivery model of decades gone by. So what this means is we the career fire-fighters at Cranbourne may not have back up which is vital in a structure fire. I would be happy to show you the data which supports this or to talk you about what can happen at a house fire for example. The best international research tells us that a rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career fire-fighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas. To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a fire-fighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

This ongoing dispute has been the background of my career to date and has had a hugely detrimental effect on the mental health of my fellow firefighters as well as the relationships within the CFA. I urge you to modernize the Victorian Fire Service. Bring us into the 21st century and most importantly when you make your decision think about what you would want is best for you, your family, and your neighbours.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

Daniel Peacock
Firefighter
CFA Cranbourne

[Redacted contact information]