

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2017 8:34 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Services Bill

**Categories:** CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST

Assistant Clerk Committees  
Department of the Legislative Council  
Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

I wish for my submission to be confidential.

I have been a fire fighter for 38 years now and I can see first-hand the population explosion that has happened in my stations area of Deer Park and Caroline Springs.

Caroline Springs to me is a concern as it is an integrated station which is housed with two trucks, one career and one volunteer. If there is a turn out in their area they are supported by three MFB trucks, North Laverton, Deer Park and St Albans all which have their own designated area to support Caroline Springs.

There are areas where the volunteer truck will be turned out with the career staff. Now if that occurs the next truck to be turned out to Caroline Springs will be one of the MFB trucks and possibly the next closest volunteer truck depending on the area of the call. I personally have been in this situation where we attended a house fire and was eventually supported by the closest volunteer truck which is quite a distance away, I had already gone through my breathing apparatus which is 30 minutes duration, when I came out I was looking for the support crew to be ready to go in, but to my surprise the two man crew who arrived to support us were not B A trained and could only fight the fire from the footpath. I then, with my partner had to put on another BA set so to give time for another MFB truck to arrive, which was Sunshine and fully equipped with more BA cylinders. As this was a large fire the two Caroline Springs trucks had finished at their previous call and were sent on to help us, but luckily for us there were no lives at risk as they had evacuated the house to a safe place. At no fault of their own the support volunteer truck had little impact to the support roll. This is just one example in certain areas of Melbourne being that populated the small volunteer brigades can't cope anymore, especially if there are multiple calls at the same time. The closest brigades are Taylors Hill which is an unmanned station, and Rockbank which has manning problems due to lack of numbers being available. It just comes down to I don't want to be put in that position again, because if something goes wrong inside that house and I have no support.... well I don't want to think about it.

I can only talk about my area, other integrated stations might have the support, but some of them have over 90,000 people living there. Do you want good support for some calls and say "she'll be right" or better support for all calls? Volunteers do have their place there is no denying that, but in heavily populated areas like in my area, I want a better guarantee of getting home.

Please seriously consider the reforms.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]