

**Prue Purdey**

**From:** Roscoe Holmes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2017 8:50 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Reform Submission

[REDACTED]

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Roscoe Holmes and I'm a Station Officer at Ocean Grove Fire Station. I support fire service reform because it is fundamentally about increasing community and fire fighter safety. At Ocean Grove, we support across the entire Bellarine Peninsula. 8 Brigades in total. The response data would indicate, that through no fault of their own, these brigades have a large number of delayed responses or fail to respond. This can often put the community at risk and also firefighters. On the Bellarine Peninsula, the SES unit is also struggling with response times. The nearest CFA staff rescue appliance is at Geelong which could be up to 30 minutes away. Fire Service Reform allows for further up skilling of members, including immediate rescue capability that could prove to be lifesaving. As a qualified rescue operator, I have twice utilised forcible entry equipment for our appliance to commence lifesaving extrication prior to the arrival of the SES unit. I am only qualified due to my 5 years as a rescue operator at Geelong City Fire Station. Would it not make sense to have all members with minimum rescue capability?


But Ocean Grove and the Bellarine are the fortunate ones. They have career staff providing a guaranteed 90 second response. I reside in Torquay. A town that is growing at a ridiculous speed. Much like Ocean Grove. When I work night shift at Ocean Grove, my family's lives are in the hands of volunteers. They do a great job. But will they be at my door to save my boys in the case of a fire? Maybe? Maybe is not good enough. Not for me. Not for you. Fire Service Reform allows places like Torquay to become staffed 24/7 in the future. This would be decided by a dedicate panel. Not being influenced by individuals who value self-pride above community safety.

I don't know how anyone in their right mind could be against increasing community safety or safety of firefighters.



Put politics aside and think about what you would want for own families.

Respectfully,

**Roscoe Holmes 26625 Station Officer**



[REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property  



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