

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Mark Glover [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2017 2:07 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fire Services Bill Select Committee

Dear Sir's and Madams,

My name is Thomas Mark Glover and I live at [REDACTED] and I have been a permanent member of the CFA since October 1983.

During that time I have been based around many districts within the CFA, but I have spent a majority of my time as the Assistant Regional Officer in District 13 (based at Lilydale), and an instructor at the CFA Training College - Fiskville, during most of 1984 and again from November 1989 to mid-June 1995 (as a Regional Officer Grade 3 and then a District Officer when changes to ranks were made). I was also Officer in Charge (of the training College) during late 2001 to late 2003 (and I gave a submission to the Fiskville inquiry). I was also Officer in Charge of Geelong City Fire Station from 1998 until 2001 and was also Officer in Charge of SiPSACS (getting the CFA fully on to Computer Aided Dispatch - CAD) from late 2003 until 2001).

Since that time I have been working on projects for the CFA and was, for a short time Officer in Charge of the Fire Incident Reporting Systems (FIRS) while the normal applicant was on Long Service Leave and doing other things for the CFA.

As can be seen, I have a myriad of experience within CFA and, during my time with CAD I was working in conjunction with the MFBB and ESTA, in relation to ensuring CAD provided for the CFA both within Districts 7, 8, 13 and 14 (Metro CAD) and the rest of CFA (Country CAD).

My thoughts on the formation of the FRS are as follows :

1. In the "old" days, back in the 1890's, there was formed two fire services, a Metropolitan Service and a Volunteer Service. This continued until 1944, when the Country Fire Authority was formed. So the formation of the FRS is essentially taking us back to the "old" ways, except the "paid" service would now be larger than just the old metropolitan service. It seems to be very similar to both NSW and SA, both which have successful Fire Services.
2. The Fire Service boundaries, between the CFA and MFBB have not been changed since (I think) the late 1960's. Our times have changed and the Fire Services should have changed with them. The fact that our major towns and Cities have grown (as has our Fire Services), but the fact remains that the CFA is trying to do things "on the cheap", with a varying response times for volunteer stations in major towns. It should be noted that the CFA will have proof (in relation to Fire Reports) that shows that many town brigades DO NOT meet required response times.

3. In relation to some (not all) major facilities, CFA do not meet the required response times. I use for example the old SHELL refinery in Geelong and the University in Ballarat. The CFA (or if applicable) the FRV need to do a lot more to ensure we meet the required response times.
4. There is no issue in relation to "enhanced response", and people that say there is are essentially not telling the truth. The fact is that the change of career fire stations moving to FRV will not change enhanced response from volunteers. In fact, when I was officer in Charge of Geelong, the volunteers at that station liked the fact that when they got a call there was a "real" fire (i.e. they were not turned out to false alarms).
5. I believe that there will be no serious impact on the Fire Services in general. By that I mean that career stations and volunteer stations will still respond. What I will say, however, is that there is some areas of CFA where volunteer stations are responded rather than career and volunteer stations, making the call out longer than it needs to be. This can be proved by the fact of the call list of various brigades, that can be received via the CFA CAD Operations in East Burwood.
6. I believe that there will be little or no effect on current or future volunteer engagement and/or participation in the fire service. In relation to volunteer turnout, the CFA has been issued with around 31,000 CFA pagers (across the State) and this is essentially the maximum amount of people that are responded. Even if we look at the major fires of 2009 you will find that we did not exceed that number. The essential fact is that although CFA has around 59,000 volunteers, many do not respond, but provide ancillary services to the Brigades (such as Schools programs or Community Education).
7. Fire Services are now funded (correctly) via the Fire Services levy (rather than House Insurance). This will provide a far easier way for fund the Fire Services and I do not see any great deviation from what is currently supplied (as distinct from what I read in some newspapers).
8. It should be noted that I live in a very rural area and it is unlikely that I will get a permanent fire station. However, it is good to know that Ballarat currently has a career fire station and I know that, if push comes to shove, the local brigade would have no issues calling in a career fire station (if the need arose).

I know I have mentioned 2 lots of documents that I know exists but I would not be able to get my "hands on". The documents relate to CAD (which Brigades go where and in what order they are called) and Fire Reports. These can be obtained from the CFA.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Regards :

Operations Manager Mark Glover  
Fire & Emergency Management, CFA

Mobile: [REDACTED]

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