

**Prue Purdey**

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**From:** Max Melzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2017 7:49 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Max Melzer submission

My name is Max Melzer.

I am a Firefighter at the Ocean Grove Fire Brigade. I have been a Firefighter for 3 years at the Country Fire Authority. Before Ocean Grove I held a position at the Corio Fire Brigade where I specialized in Hazardous Material operations.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

As a firefighter it is crucial to have guaranteed backup - two trucks with at least 7 firefighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes. To know that if I go into a burning building, there will be support right behind me.

At the moment in Ocean Grove it is quite rare that a Volunteer would turn up to a job to support us.

This guaranteed response means improved community safety and protection in those areas not currently receiving set response.

Employing all career firefighters under one fire service will not affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity.

Volunteer support will be maintained with operational firefighters (OO's, OM's being employed by FRV but continuing their roles through an arrangement with CFA)

The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas – there will be no effect on other volunteer brigades or bushfire response

The 35 areas are now highly urbanized – high residential and other risks exist have developed in the time since these boundaries were set.

The reform will assist with standardization of career training/specialist response/response standards and equipment. Improving service delivery to the community.

The disputation in the workplace has damaged morale and placed additional strain on myself, and also my family.

The reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades and recruitment.

Yours sincerely

Max Melzer  
[REDACTED]



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