

Prue Purdey

From: O'SULLIVAN, Rod [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 8:05 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Reforms

To the Honourable Committee

My name is Rod O'Sullivan and I have been a professional MFB fire-fighter for over 20 years. I am a Station Officer currently based at Nth Laverton fire station. My area of responsibilities includes 7 of the major hazardous facilities, parts of the Princes fwy, the Western Ring, the 3 current prisons located in the western suburbs as well we respond to residential and industrial calls for help and emergencies.

I write to you to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of Nth Laverton I've seen firsthand what happens due to Victoria's fire services boundaries having not changed significantly in 60 years. We respond into an area which takes us into the current CFA boundary's unsure of whether or not we will have CFA support under this outdated system. I believe there are about 35 areas, wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 'country areas'. These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. They all pay the fire levy don't they? Are they not entitled to a rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career fire-fighters and at least two fire trucks? This is the current minimum standard you can expect in the Metropolitan areas. All Victorians, professional and volunteer fire-fighters, deserve a modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities. It's what I would deem safe!

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.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will assist with the safety of all fire-fighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer fire-fighters.

Unfortunately this issue has become a political football, with both parties kicking it around. The negative issues this has created being played out in the public arena needs to stop, its unhealthy and detrimental to any future working together of both the professional and volunteers. Please put your bias aside for the benefit of our state, your constituents and the public we want to protect.

I would more than happy to meet with you in person to talk to you about my personal experiences as a professional fire-fighter and why this reform is so important to so many people. This is not about the professionals versus the volunteers. Some of us were volunteers before we became MFB fire fighters. We need to work alongside volunteers sometimes to achieve what is best for all who live in our state, being politicised to gain votes does not help Victoria!

Kind regards

Rod O'Sullivan
Station Officer
Nth Laverton 49stn
[REDACTED]

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