

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Don Butler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 2:07 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Reform submission

My name is Don Butler and I have been a professional MFB and CFA fire service employee for 33 years. I commenced my career as a firefighter with the MFB in 1984, rising to the rank of Station Officer, until joining CFA in 2004. I am currently based at CFA District 13 HQ at Lilydale, as a Senior Instructor..

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

- In my area of the Eastern Metropolitan District of Melbourne and to a greater extent, North East Region of CFA,
- I've seen firsthand what happens when a fire call is received by both organisations and have witnessed the unfortunate unavailability of CFA crews to attend in the first instance. As a resident of Knoxfield and living 1 Km from Knox City; I can sincerely advise you that I do not consider my residence to be located within the country area of Victoria.
- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.
- These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.
- All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask the Select Committee to please seriously consider their 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 ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that the Select Committee give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me, my family as well as my colleagues.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Select Committee in person to talk further about why this reform is so important.

Thanking you in anticipation

Don Butler 