

Prue Purdey

From: Sandro Pozzebon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 3:31 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Bill.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to provide a submission in relation to the upcoming Fire Services Reform Bill.

I am a current serving member of the MFB with a rank of Leading Fire Fighter working at Ascot Vale Fire Station. I believe the current MFB model for inner Melbourne is the exact model that should be adopted in any urban or highly populated area. Whenever confronted by a challenging fire or incident, we can currently take for granted that a prompt response will occur and that further assistance is only moments away. This has resulted, and will continue to result, in many, many examples of saved property, life and unnecessary trauma to the public. It beggars belief that in 2017, some fully populated suburbs and regions do not have this kind of first world, essential cover.

I am extremely grateful and respectful of volunteerism in general and that of the CFA. These volunteers are true heroes that give up their own time to benefit their community. Volunteerism will always be necessary and will always be a part of the Victorian and Australian culture. There have been many incidents that would have resulted in complete devastation without volunteer contribution. Sadly, there will be many more protracted incidents and that will require significant contributions from the volunteers into the future.

The model currently being proposed is a win for all Victorians. We all pay the fire services levy and all deserve full coverage and adequate back up where required. I have been to several incidents involving MFB, CFA & CFA volunteers. On all occasions, my observations were that all parties worked together in a professional manner to overcome the task at hand. Unfortunately, I believe that relations between the organisations have been a little strained lately, but I am very confident that all will be restored once the new organisation of FRV is formed. In fact, I believe the volunteer organisation will have every opportunity to flourish and become more independent and meaningful.

With another fire season quickly approaching, an opportunity for reform exists whereby an antiquated system of fire coverage can be changed. The time is right and I believe all Victorians would be in favour of being fully covered by a modern, world class fire service.

Sandro Pozzebon
Leading Fire Fighter, MFB, Ascot Vale (FS 50)
[REDACTED]