

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Greg Cotterill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 June 2017 6:53 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: SUBMISSION TO THE FIRE SERVICES REFORM BILL SELECT COMMITTEE

Gregory John Cotterill
[REDACTED]

Station Officer
MFB

29 June 2017

The Parliamentary Committee for the Fire Services Reform Bill.

Dear Parliamentary Committee members,

I am writing in support of the Fire Services Support Bill.

My name is Greg Cotterill and I hold the rank of Station Officer with the MFB. I have been a Firefighter for eighteen years, I am a Rescue Operator and I am an Operational Station Officer in the Northern zone of the MFB. Over the years, particularly over the last 10 years, the growth throughout this whole area has been dramatic. With the increased urbanization comes the development of mid to high density buildings and apartments which create a further challenge to Firefighters and supports our claim for a minimum of seven career firefighters on the fire ground. Only career firefighters can guarantee a full and timely response to any emergency at any time. This includes day time when others may be at work or studying, night time when most people are asleep, or holiday periods such as Easter or Christmas. In an industry where minutes lost may impact on peoples lives, the Public or Emergency Services Personnel, a timely response is critical.

CFA volunteers are an important asset to the State of Victoria, they do a great job, but they cannot guarantee equal response times.

I am aware of a number of fires in the area of Greensborough where, because there was an inadequate response of career firefighters properties were lost. One example is the primary school at Apollo Parkways the other was a private residence which was recently, totally destroyed by fire. I saw footage of this fire on social media and I feel if this area had a more adequate response there may have been a different outcome for the owners of this property.

The support of this Bill will further enhance the safety of the Public and the added protection of buildings and infrastructure. Additionally it will enhance the safety of Fire fighters on the fire ground.

Regards

Greg Cotterill
Station Officer
MFB