

Kirra Vanzetti

From: LANIGAN, Robert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2017 9:59 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform

To the Select Committee

My name is Robert Lanigan, I am an Operations Commander with the MFB. My current posting is Eastern District B Platoon. I manage 11 Fire Stations and supervise up to 80 full time firefighters and Officers. In my 34 years of service to the community I have seen many changes, most notably the increased population density, the busier roads and the increasing reliance on infrastructure and technology.

Eastern District has a large border with the CFA, my crews regularly respond to calls with both career and volunteer CFA Brigades.

As a Commander I fully support Fire Service reform for the following reasons:

- + It is a model that will allow the Fire and Emergency Service to grow as Metropolitan Melbourne grows. (Particularly in its growth corridors)
- + It will provide a world class service to all Victorians not just those living in Melbourne
- + It will give Volunteer firefighters the rights they desire and deserve
- + Rapid Response to Emergency reduces the impact of that emergency on the community. This is particularly the case when dealing with incidents on arterial roads, Critical Infrastructure and communication and technology Networks for example
- + There will be no impact on the ability of Volunteers to respond, and further there will be the same cooperation between professional staff and Volunteers. I was recently the Incident Controller at a pizza restaurant fire in Heathmont. (27/06/2017). There were 4 MFB crews, 1 CFA professional crew and 2 CFA Volunteer crew all working together in a seamless professional manner. This will continue under the proposed Fire Service Reform
- + It will increase the number of Victorians covered by the EMR program meaning more lives saved.
- + Surge capacity for Bushfire is retained as there is no impact to Volunteers. They will still be able to respond for "Campaign Fires".
- + A guaranteed response of 7 BA trained firefighters to all structure fires is necessary to provide a safe workplace
- + Presumptive legislation for work related cancer will be available to all firefighters.

There have been countless occasions in my career as an Officer that the existing model has failed. Either where there has been no backup response from a Volunteer Brigade or where the response by a Volunteer brigade did not have appropriately qualified firefighters to assist in fighting a structure fire.

By way of example. Very recently (28/6/2017) a call was received for a car accident possible person trapped in Heathmont. (Call no. 16191) A car was on its roof, 3 other cars involved. The computer aided dispatch system (CAD) picked Rescue 27 (Mfb) and Bayswater Pumper (CFA). Bayswater is totally volunteer and 200 meters closer to the call than Ringwood (MFB 22) . Bayswater failed to respond, necessitating a response from Ringwood (MFB) which was on scene in 6 minutes. The MFB response was requested by the rescue officer to ensure he had the right backup as he knew that the volunteer system does not guarantee a response.

As a resident of the Dandenong Ranges I also fully support Fire Service Reform

I live in CFA area (Belgrave) and have a strong appreciation for the valuable contribution that local volunteers make to their community. I find it hard to accept however that in the 21st century, areas of Metropolitan Melbourne have an antiquated and slow response to emergencies. I do not understand why I pay a higher Fire Service Levee than people that live with in the MFB boundaries. They receive an expedient professional response to emergencies as well as Emergency Medical Response (EMR). I am sure you aware what a fantastic program EMR is. Due to the time critical nature of this service it can only be provided by Full-time Firefighters.

As a resident in Belgrave I am frustrated that in MFB area a guaranteed response time of 7.7 minutes at the 90th percentile is the standard. In Belgrave if my house catches fire I know it will most likely be lost because the response times are poor as the volunteers have to stop what they're doing drive to the fire station, wait for a driver and crew, drive to the scene and get to work. (hopefully there are some BA wearers that can do internal firefighting or rescue). This is not good enough in this day and age.

There has been a lot of negative press around the Fire Service reform. It is all unfounded. I firmly believe that it is in the best interest of all Victorians and it will bring us in line with other modern Fire Services worldwide. A recent study found Melbourne is growing at a faster rate than Sydney, we must allow the Fire Service to grow with it.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my submission. I sincerely hope you vote in favour of moving Victoria forward.

Your sincerely

**Bob Lanigan | Commander B Platoon
Eastern District | South East Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board**

Sent from my iPad

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