

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Chris Perry, I'm currently stationed at the Rowville Fire Station as a Career Firefighter with the CFA.

I have lived in the south-eastern outer metro growth corridor my whole life and have experienced first-hand the speed at which urban Melbourne is growing. New shops, factories and homes are being built at such rapid around me, society is updating, modernising and improving but unfortunately for the Victorian Community, our Fire and Rescue services are remaining behind the times.

Metropolitan fire district boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia, Geelong and where I work in Rowville are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

Not only is this putting the lives and properties of Victorians at risk, it is putting the lives of Firefighters at risk. Professional Firefighters in the 'country areas' do not have the same safe systems of work in place that our brothers and sisters within the current metropolitan fire district have.

All Victoria Firefighters, Professional and Volunteer, deserve modern Fire and Rescue services, that meet the needs of our growing communities.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of all Victorians, 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.

Kind regards

Chris Perry



Professional CFA Firefighter