

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Bruce Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 July 2017 2:40 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: Rini Krousos
Subject: reform

I am employed by the MFB and have been for the past 38 years.

Two thirds of that time have been in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.
I am currently Station Officer in charge of Croydon Fire Station, D platoon.

As such I respond to fire calls with one MFB station, and two integrated CFA stations and six different CFA volunteer stations. So over the years I have had an extensive interaction with all types of Brigade and Firefighter that there is.

Also over tis timespan I have been amazed at the urban buildup of people that are jam packed into what was once semi rural postcodes.

Obviously with the increase in population density, comes the increase in fire calls.

The CFA volunteer stations, are manned by people who wish to give freely to help as they always have, however they have families to support and businesses to attend.

It has become clear that these increases in call outs are affecting the attendance of some volunteers at some brigades.

This can only be expected, as a trade who has a job 30 minutes from home, can't attend to the firecalls at his home location.

This is only one reason why numbers are down, but I won't go into a long list of the others.

The matter of 7 firefighters being despatched to each call has had wide publicity and is very important.

One for a larger team of workers at a time critical event and two for the Health and Safety of those firefighters who are putting their lives at risk to keep people safe.

We have always endeavoured to work well with all firefighters in my time and I think the reform will allow even better results as standardisation of equipment follows.

From what I have experienced in the past i can't see the reform affecting the surge capacity of volunteers in any way at all.

Integrated stations will allow 24/7 professional coverage and the attached volunteers will always be there for the extra effort that they so willingly have always provided.

A win win scenario.

I believe as Victoria grows, so must the boundaries of our Fire Services, it is just logical.

And from the people that have talked to me, it is what they expect.

All Victorians pay the fire levy and as such they deserve the best service.

It is all about delivery of service.

And the Reform will provide a start to a better delivery of service.

Yours sincerely
Bruce Gibson
[REDACTED]