

Kirra Vanzetti

From: James Howell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 July 2017 9:43 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: FIRE SERVICE BILL SELECT COMMITTEE 2017

1st July 2017

To The Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

My name is James Howell. I am a Level 2 Fire-Fighter at South Warrandyte, one of the 35 integrated stations within the CFA and I am also a volunteer at Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade.

My role as a career Fire-Fighter at CFA is to work alongside, train, support and mentor volunteers as well as respond to various fire, motor vehicle accident, rescue, hazardous material situations and emergency medical response we also help the community by teaching them fire safety and prevention through schools and other community groups.

I fully support the Fire Service Reform and the improvement to the fire service where I live in Mount Evelyn. There has been many times where Mount Evelyn and surrounding brigades have turned out with an insufficient crew or enough crew with the appropriate training to 1) complete the task and 2) do it safely. This is no fault of their own as they are volunteers, they have day jobs and other commitments and they do a great job in what they are trained in. With the implementation of a Fire District Review Panel periodic reviews will be undertaken in areas like these and changes will be implemented based on expert demand modelling and objective criteria that reflect emerging risks and changes to the population.

In many areas of the outer fringe of Melbourne communities deserve 7 professional Fire-Fighters, over 2 crews, within 8 minutes. The current system and boundaries need to be overhauled and continually reviewed, the only way for this to happen is with the Fire Service Reform. Having Dandenong, Hallam, Craigieburn, South Morang etc. classed as country in 2017 where population has sky rocketed since the 60's and 70's is outdated and irresponsible to the communities.

There will be no effect on "Surge Capacity" as the same strike teams and stations will be responded to jobs that they would normally be responded to, either in their area or to campaign fires. To say that volunteers won't respond any more or that they will leave the CFA because of this reform would go against the very reason they became volunteers to "protect lives and property" and to look after their community, these claims are unfounded and an insult to all volunteers.

Yours Sincerely,



James Howell Firefighter
South Warrandyte Fire Brigade
29 Falconer RD Park Orchards
[REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



cfa.vic.gov.au



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