

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Pete Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 9:45 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Supporting Fire Service Reform

Dear Sirs/Madams

My name is Peter Taylor, of [REDACTED].

I have been a Firefighter with the MFB for 11 years, and currently hold the rank of Leading Firefighter.

I am currently stationed at Tullamarine, FS 52.

I have held the position of Health and Safety Rep for 5 years.

My role is to protect life and property to all those seeking assistance, both in the Metropolitan area, and in the ever increasing urban spread which is technically out of our jurisdiction.

I attend Emergency Medical Responses, road accidents, HAZMAT incidences, and also fires.

I believe it is critical that we support the fire service reform because we need a modern urban fire service. With the rapid urbanisation of Greenvale, Craigieburn and Mickleham, which are all right on our doorstep, the fire service need to service this vastly changing demographic.

In our direct area we have Tullamrine Airport as a major risk where we assist the AARF, and also Essendon Airport where we are the primary responders. Other major risks in our area are the Western Ring Road, Tullamatine Freeway and the Calder Freeway. We are also responsible for nursing homes, primary and secondary schools, major shopping centres and many factories.

Over the years we have regularly been required to respond to Sunbury, Bulla, Craigieburn in a Back Up Operational Role, or as a Step Up reponse. We have done this with great difficulty due to the fact that we run things so differently as our CFA colleagues. With differing radio networks, procedures and equipment on our trucks the public are not receiving adequate service. Under one fire service we will be able to provide a more effective, efficient and safer reponse to these growth areas. One fire service would also provide greater cohesion between all firefighters and drastically improve fireground safety.

Under one fire service I believe that we will be able to better utilise our Taskforce when they are deployed, as we will all be working under a unified Command Structure. In the past on such Taskforces the utilisation and safety of these Taskforces, I believe have been underwhelming ineffective and unsafe.

This dispute has seen the morale, confidence and faith of many firefighters, in upper management reach unacceptable lows, which we can no longer allow to continue. This dispute has also had disgustingly unfair and negative and destructive impact on my young children,(currently 11 and 12 years old), through the lies and misinformation generated by people who are ment to lead our organisation, through he media.

I can only see that by supporting one fire service that all Victorians will be better protected and the safety and well being of all firefighters will be greatly enhanced.

Kind Regards

LFF Peter Taylor