

## Submission to the Fire Services Bill Select Committee

The proposed restructure of the Victorian fire services will create a number of beneficial outcomes however there are several issues which, with respect, I believe could be changed to maximise the effectiveness of the legislation for all concerned.

1. The issues of **Presumptive Cancer** and **Fire Service Restructure** are two very separate issues. For the purposes of enactment and for any amendments that become necessary in the future, they must be treated on their own merits and become two completely separate pieces of legislation.
2. A budget of five million dollars has been put on the rebranding of MFB to FRV. We know that in reality it will cost way more than this. Let's save this money and retain the MFB name for what will become the new Victorian urban fire service.
3. The CFA staff who currently support our volunteers must remain in the employment of CFA. Being employed by another agency and placed on secondment creates a number of issues and limitations including length of tenure, promotional opportunities, chain of command etc.
4. The idea of integrated stations as proposed under the new model creates many issues and may lead to incidents of disharmony between career staff and volunteers. This issue needs very careful consideration in order to make the transitions as smooth as possible. Possibly the transfer of volunteers to neighbouring brigades is the cleanest arrangement.
5. In the past our surge capacity to fight major fires across the state has come in part from the outer metro rural brigades. Our restructure must enable CFA to retain this surge capacity with well trained and equipped rural fire fighters.
6. In his role as Chief Officer of CFS, Euan Ferguson introduced a similar two agency model in South Aust. Rather than reinvent the wheel can we consult with Euan and adopt the relevant aspects of his model in Victoria?

**Geoff Perry – Chiltern Fire Brigade**

**Mobile** [REDACTED]

**( I am not seeking confidentiality. )**