

FAIR & EQITABLE FIRE SERVICES

3 July 2017

Peter Gonis

I, Peter Gonis, have for 36 years been a committed fire fighter dedicating my life to servicing the community via MFB.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not significantly changed in 60+ years – they have not kept pace with the enormous population growth in Victoria.

Victoria's outdated fire services system is a risk to people, properties, and the firefighters who protect them.

Urban areas are zoned as country that have densely populated areas, therefore have been left behind regarding fire services response times and safety of the firefighters and community. Meaning that these areas do not get the fire coverage that a busy urban area needs.

World's best practise is 7 firefighters on the fire ground to safely execute firefighting. 7 on the fire ground is for volunteers and full time firefighters. Safety does not cover only one emergency service, its inclusive.

Are the people of Melton, Dandenong, Eltham, & Frankston to name a few not worthy of the same service and protection that the inner city are privy to?

The CFA volunteer surge capacity will not be affected by the proposed reforms. The proposed reforms are critical to take the pressure off volunteers in urban areas where there is a demand for emergency services.

The proposed reforms will see the roll of the volunteer further enshrined under law. Volunteers in integrated stations will also get career pathways and extra training.

The reform will return the CFA to an independent, autonomous volunteer fire service.

Victoria desperately needs the reforms to protect the community and are a win win for Victoria.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Gonis

