

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Greg Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 12:23 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire service reform

To Legislative Council Members,

My name is Greg Andrews and I have been a professional MFB firefighter for over 28 years currently based at Ringwood fire station.

As I am stationed on the fringe area of the Metropolitan and Country boundary I have worked alongside members of the volunteer CFA service many times. On many occasions there have been issues with volunteers' lack of qualifications (ie. not being able to wear breathing apparatus etc.), which puts extra pressure on and compromises the safety of professional firefighters, especially where access to a structure is to be made. As this is no fault of our volunteers, I do believe this shows one of many faults of our fire service in its current form.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed in 60 years. Under this outdated system many heavily urbanised areas of Victoria are wrongly zoned as country, as is the suburb of Boronia where I reside, which recently had a house fire and took over 20 minutes to get 1 fire appliance on scene. Victoria's urban community has grown significantly, its fire service has not!

Victoria's heavily urbanised areas need to be modernised as part of the fire services reform. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional firefighters on 2 fire appliances is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians, including me as a firefighter and a resident of a heavily urbanised COUNTRY area, I ask for your support of the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

Along with my above request, I ask for your support of the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both need to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is extremely important to myself and my colleagues.

Regards,

LFF Greg Andrews, MFB,

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