

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Wayne Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 2:10 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform

Dear Assistant clerk Committees,

I am Professional Qualified Firefighter Wayne Barrett; I am based at Geelong City 'B' shift. Some of my speciality skills above the standard firefighting include heavy road accident rescue operator, steep angle rescue, 42m ladder platform operator and monitor hazardous atmospheres. I graduated CFA recruit course 2/2014.

I am writing this submission in strong support of the proposed reform and modernisation of the fire services. Firstly I would like to state that I admire the efforts of the volunteers and I am not here to disrespect or downgrade them, but simply state the facts as I see it, as a professional firefighter. Here at Geelong City we are continuously faced with our neighbouring brigades failing to turn out, or delayed turn outs. This is no fault of their own, other than the fact that we are not living in the 1950's and life has changed sadly our fire services have not.

I could go in to detail on hundreds of jobs where our safety or the community's safety has been at risk due to failing to respond. The most recent job that I will go into detail on is as follows:

Situation: Incident no. 635782. 25/05/2017 Structure fire @ 2/41 Collins Street Geelong West 3218.

The job came through to support Geelong West to reports of a structure fully engulfed with persons reported missing. As standard we sent 2 appliances based on we simply cannot be sure of what sort of response we will get from our surround brigades. Geelong pumper 2 and Geelong ladder platform arrived on scene and established control, shortly after vicfire advised via radio that Geelong West had failed to respond and would a further brigade be required, the officer in charge replied affirmative, so Geelong rescue was responded (I was the driver) and Corio were paged.

So to paint the picture of what exactly this means, we have now stripped Geelong city fire district of 3 appliances and 7-9 firefighters, but the carry on effect of that also is our other support areas are exposed because we can no longer send support into those areas, along with stripping resources from the Corio district. Not to mention that our Heavy rescue is being asked a lot more off over the past 12 months with the Corio SES unit failing to provide RAR. Eventually Geelong West did respond with a single volunteer in a car with no firefighting capability. Just to reaffirm this is not an attack on volunteers but this is not an isolated incident and not only as a professional firefighter who wants and expects myself and my colleagues to return home safely through having the guarantee of the sufficient amount of people and resources responded to an incident after each shift, but has a taxpayer I demand and expect the guarantee of a quick and professional response for the safety of my family.

I see this proposed legislation from the government the only way forward for our fire services. The last 3 or more years have been hell, through the constant lies and attacks from the liberal political party and the Herald sun, now thanks to the federal Government they have all but assured we have no hope of negotiating a work place agreement with our employer.

I plead with you to give the people of Victoria what they deserve and that is drag our fire services out of the 1950's. Restore the CFA back to its original design of a volunteer only service, end all the political fighting and remove the wedge from professionals and volunteers. This is a massive win for both sides but more importantly a win for all Victorians.

Regards,



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