

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Daniel Bourke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 3:48 PM
To: LCSC
Cc: Daniel Bourke
Subject: Fire Service Restructure

Daniel Bourke
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To the Select Committee,

My name is Daniel Bourke; I am currently a Career Qualified Fire Fighter at Cranbourne Fire Station with the Country Fire Authority and I am writing to you to show my support of the Victorian Fire Services Restructure.

Working as a full time fire fighter I see the benefits for the community of having a full time 24/7-staffed fire service.

On receipt of a 'fire call' we are required to be dressed, know where to go and be out the door in 90 seconds.

During my time with CFA so far, I have responded to structure fires, non-structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, grass fires, bush fires and everything in between. I am also a first responder, which requires responding to Emergency Medical incidents assisting Ambulance Victoria in the initial care of 'Priority Zero' medical calls.

I am not only working in a highly urbanised residential area although living in one as well. My workplace, Cranbourne, is located in the City of Casey in Victoria, which is one of Australia's fastest growing areas.

'The City of Casey already has the most residents of any municipality in Victoria, and its population is forecast to grow from approximately 288,000 in 2015 to 492,497 by 2041. Currently, on average 7,300 people move to Casey each year and it is expected this will increase to 8,700 per year by 2031.'

(<https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/building-planning/strategic-planning/growth-areas>)

This growth is mainly occurring across Cranbourne, Berwick and Clyde. All of these areas are experiencing major developments including housing estates, industrial parks and other infrastructure. In this modern day there is a need for a modern urban fire service ensuring the community living within these areas receive a timely and professional service. Currently there is not adequate cover for all of these areas with regards to a modern fire service.

The volunteers at Cranbourne and surrounding brigades to Cranbourne that I work with on the 'fireground' do a fantastic job. Although with today's family/work commitments and even the growing number of cars on our roads causing traffic headaches, sometimes they are unable to turn out to 'fire calls.'

I have been to emergency calls where no backup has been able to be dispatched due to the above items I have mentioned. This does not only place the community at risk although it places my work colleagues and I at risk.

Having a modern urban fire service will **ENSURE** that the community has the resources available to them to protect their lives and property. By providing 7 professional fire fighters across 2 crews within 8 minutes is a service that is hard to knock back.

The facts are there that the restructure to the fire services will not impact the volunteers within the CFA. They will continue to apply the same knowledge and skills to helping the community they volunteer in. I have personally spoken to a number of volunteers about this issue and they are fully aware that the restructure will not hinder their volunteering capacity and in particular it will be a benefit to the community they love and protect.

Having more professional fire fighters in these fast growing areas of Victoria is a vital ingredient to protect life and property.

I must reiterate, the Restructure of Victoria's Fire Services is what our rapidly changing communities need. It will be a change, although a positive one. The boundaries of the urban sprawl around Melbourne are bursting at the seams and our Fire Service needs to change with it to ensure a reliable and efficient service is provided.

Regards,

Daniel Bourke

Qualified Career Fire Fighter

Cranbourne Fire Station





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