

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

My name is Mark Carter and I have been a career firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) for over 28 years. My current position as Commander and delegate of the Chief Fire Officer MFB in the area of new building Fire Safety approvals has me well placed to understand the issues presented by the densification of the urban environment. My team are responsible for providing a regulatory function (fire protection report) as part of the building permit and approval process under the interim Building regulations 2017. We have also been at the forefront of advocating for safer building stock particularly since the 2014 Lacrosse fire.

During my work in the building industry I have witnessed the growth of the urban fringe and regional areas and seen the strain that this has placed on our volunteer firefighters with significant increases in call numbers and a change in the response type from largely grass and bushfires to house and factory fires. Whilst I totally support the efforts of the thousands of volunteer firefighters and other ESO members that give their time so generously to protect their communities, I believe that this reform will also importantly provide volunteer areas with much needed additional support.

The time for change is long overdue and the community deserve more from their fire services.

Fire Service reform will play an important role in addressing the old boundaries that have failed to adequately address population growth on Melbourne's fringe and regional centres, making Victoria a safer place to live and work. Additionally, it will stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I respectfully submit that you give consideration to endorsed and implement the reform needed to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed before the commencement of the fire season.

Kind Regards

Mark Carter

Commander Mark Carter | Manager  
BCA & Audits | Community Safety Directorate

**Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board**

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