

Kirra Vanzetti

From: MITCHELL, Cheyne [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 9:10 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

My name is Cheyne Mitchell and I have been a professional MFB Firefighter for 6 years. I am currently based at Eastern Hill fire station and live in St Kilda East.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire service for the following reasons:

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career Firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas. I am lucky enough to live in an area covered by a full time fire service. I know if I require their service whether for a fire, medical call, car accident, gas leak or any emergency the Firefighters will be on scene within 8 minutes and have the skills and qualifications to complete the job. This is imperative in all calls especially medical where early access is the key to saving lives.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer Firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities. Volunteers do an amazing job though should not be expected to be constantly on call as they also have their lives outside of volunteering.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of our communities and the 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.

Conversing with friends and family in regards to this reform they are in full support of the changes. I have multiple friends in heavily urbanised areas that are not covered by a full time fire service. This they cannot understand and believe as they also pay the fire service levy and they are not covered by a full time service. They should be allowed the safety that I receive.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a Firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Cheyne Mitchell
[REDACTED]

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