

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 July 2017 4:07 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to the Parliamentary Select committee Fire Services Bill

To Whom it may Concern.

The System is Broken !

I have been a professional fire-fighter with the MFB for 30 years now.

Over the years I have watched as the fire services deteriorated into its current form. I can only describe it as a 'dogs breakfast'.

In 50 years the MFB boundaries have not been changed or revitalised to reflect the urban growth Victoria has experienced. Due to political interference from both the LNP and VFVB, who appear to be more interested in self aggrandisement rather than community safety, the CFA is not able to provide adequate response time and services required for urban areas. In the MFB we have excellent systems that deliver a world class fire service. For example, the MFB fire-fighters contain a structure fire to the room of origin 88% of the time.

The reforms will ensure that Melbourne and regional cities receive the same world class service.

Currently rate payers in the outer suburbs covered by the CFA are paying the same fire service levy but not receiving the same service, such as shorter response times, as those covered by the MFB.

The volunteer system struggles in metropolitan areas and larger regional cities where it has a presence. It does however work extremely well in the country areas where people live and work nearby and the majority of calls are not as time critical. Statistics show that there are significantly less calls in country areas.

The proposed reforms will help to remove the politics from the service's, no longer will fire-fighters be pitted against each other and be used by the politicians as pawns in their political games. The adverse media campaign targeting career fire-fighters has taken quite a toll on my colleagues and I.

The proposed reforms will allow both the new Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and the CFA to concentrate on building their own fire service focused on looking after their communities, and the health and safety of their fire-fighters.

The CFA will become independent and free from union involvement which is what a number volunteer's want. The CFA will get extra funding to address any concerns or problems during the transition.

The VFVB have 4 members on the CFA board so getting things fixed shouldn't cause any problems. All firefighters will be covered under the presumptive Cancer Legislation.

The reforms will only effect the 35 integrated stations out of 1220 brigades state wide.

Career and volunteer fire-fighters will still work along side each other as they do now, in a co-located station. The MFB have done this successfully, working along side Ambulance Victoria, who also deliver medical training to MFB fire-fighters qualified as first responders. The Emergency Medical Response

(EMR) program is highly successful and both agencies have been co-inhabiting in fire stations for over 10 years now. Therefore I can't see why this model wouldn't be successful between the new FRV and the CFA.

The reforms will allow programs like our EMR program, to be rolled out to the remaining areas of Melbourne Metropolitan and regional cities.

I believe the new proposed reforms will translate into a significant number of lives and properties being saved as the services move into the future. To achieve this we need the reforms and we must let go of our old outdated structures, boundaries and response systems.

As already mentioned, Melbourne is growing at a rapid rate, but our fire services have not kept pace with the demand.

I call on you to vote for the legislation, and have it passed with no changes. This will solve many of the problems we have in the industry and set up the two independent services so that the focus can be on serving their communities with out fear or favour.

Thankyou for this opportunity to have a say; if you'd like more information on any of the related subjects I'd be happy to provide that for you.

Yours Sincerely

MFB Leading Firefighter John Cannon

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of John Cannon.

Sent from Windows Mail