

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Louis Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 1:32 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Support for fire services reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Louis Parker and I have been a CFA career fire-fighter for over 3 years. I am currently based at Corio fire station but I have previously worked at Warrnambool, Rowville and Cranbourne Fire Brigades which has given me a broad overview of the current operation of our out-dated fire coverage in Victoria and areas of improvement.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform. Below are some points that I hope can help you understand changes and subsequent benefits of the reform.

In my short career as a professional fire-fighter, I've already seen the perils of the out-dated system and legislation we work under as fire-fighters in Victoria. Fortunately, we have the rare opportunity upon us to bring Victoria's fire service into the new millennium and become a world class Fire & Rescue service – something that we deserve as Victorians living in this great state.

Due to the population increase in this rapidly growing state, areas that are now densely populated with significant life risks and critical infrastructure are still defined as "country" areas in legislation. This out-dated legislation makes it difficult for these areas to have an up to date, adequate fire cover. Subsequently these areas have not received an enhanced fire coverage in-line with their risk growth. The proposed fire services reform addresses these challenges that come with urban growth. This is obviously a benefit to the community.

Volunteers are a pivotal part of fire coverage for the state of Victoria. The proposed fire service reform still allows volunteers to be involved in the areas they currently live and serve as well as be utilised as surge capacity during our dangerous summer bushfires. The volunteers will have their own service, legislated to suit their needs, funding for their appliances and training without any interference. I believe the volunteers deserve this piece of mind for their service. This is another benefit to the community.

As a career fire-fighter, I work in a very dangerous profession. The proposed fire services reform will legislate to help improve the safety of my workplace. I believe this is fair and reasonable given the nature of our industry.

Yours sincerely,



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