

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 3:34 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Submission

Categories: CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST

Good afternoon,

I would like my submission to remain confidential. Thank you.

Submission for Fire Services Reform:

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a professional and volunteer CFA firefighter for more than 10 years. I am currently based at Cranbourne fire station. I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of the South East, which has seen incredible growth and urban sprawl in the last several decades I've seen first-hand what happens when a once rural, volunteer brigade is stretched beyond their members ability to support their ever-growing community 24/7. Unfortunately I have seen many occasions where professional firefighters who are relying on the backup of volunteers to provide them with support at a fire, were forced to call on another brigade, wasting precious minutes, because the volunteers were unable to form a crew (due to work and other commitments). I believe it is unfair to expect so much of volunteers in highly urbanised areas which are receiving more and more emergency calls year on year, and it poses an ongoing safety risk to the professionals who are en-route to an emergency with no guarantee of safe back-up.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential.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. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

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

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our 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.

Thank you.

Regards,

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