

Kirra Vanzetti

From: POORE, Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 8:09 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: I support the proposed fire service reforms

Dear Committee members,

My name is Mike Poore and I am a Leading fire-fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I've been a fire-fighter for approximately seven years and am currently stationed at Deer Park fire station. I live in Melton, which according to the current fire service boundaries is considered a "country" area. Luckily for me, Melton is now an integrated station so I have the benefit of being protected by full time fire-fighters who will respond within 90 of receiving a call.

I am writing to you to let you know I wholeheartedly support the proposed fire services reform.

As a full time fire-fighter I've seen first-hand the destruction and disruption to lives caused by fire. I've also personally experienced the damage and disruption fire causes. Almost eight years ago I lost my house, and all worldly possessions, when my house was destroyed by fire. Living in Melton, which at the time was serviced by volunteers, we had the first appliance (Fire truck) on scene within approx. ten minutes. Unfortunately the appliance only had three crew on board. It took a further ten minutes (approx.) for the next appliance to arrive and by that time our house was completely involved in fire. I appreciate the work the volunteers did and I in no way blame them for not saving my house though I know a ninety second turnout from a station staffed with full time fire-fighters, turning out with seven fire-fighters on two appliance, would have had a much better chance of saving my house. How do I know this? Because I attend house fires. I know getting seven fire-fighters in two appliances to the fire, within eight minutes, affords fire-fighters a much better chance of containing the fire to the room of origin. Having seven fire-fighters dispatched to calls also provides an additional level of safety required for fire-fighters working inside the burning structure.

Currently areas like Melton, Cragieburn, Dandenong, Frankston, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are classified as country areas. This was the case thirty-five years ago though not now. Reforming the fire services will ensure each of these areas, and all other areas that continues to grow and become heavily urbanised, will have the rapid eight minute response of two fire trucks and seven fire-fighters. Another added benefit of this fire reform is the protection and peace of mind afforded fire-fighters and their families. There have been times when my appliance has been first on scene to an incident (fire/car accident etc...) and we need to affect a rescue. If I'm entering a burning structure with no back up ready I'm praying I find any casualties safe, while simultaneously praying that I too make it out safely. Having two appliances respond to every call allows me the peace of mind to know, should it be required, help is waiting outside. Situations like these place a great deal of stress on me and also my long suffering wife. Speaking of stress, this lengthy, antagonistic and adversarial bargaining process we've been going through for the last four years have caused me and my family immeasurable stress. I could go on and on though I'll finish a heartfelt invitation for you to support the proposed changes to the fire services. Please support modernising Victoria's fire service and protecting its fire-fighters.

I also invite you to contact me, should you wish, to further discuss my support of the proposed fire service reforms.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Poore

Leading Firefighter Mike Poore | C Platoon
Deer Park Fire Station | Western District | North West Metro Region
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board



*The MFB is committed to minimising its impact on the environment.
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

WARNING

This email and any attachment may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you are not authorised to copy or disclose all or any part of it without the prior written consent of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.
