

Kirra Vanzetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 8:27 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission to Fire Services Bill Select Committee

To Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a professional MFB Firefighter for five and a half years. I am currently based at Preston Fire Station.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

In my area of Melbourne the fire coverage is provided by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In this area two staffed fire trucks are immediately dispatched to all structure fires. I have been to numerous structure fires where due to this quick response people have been successfully rescued from burning buildings and fires contained to the room of origin. Having a quick response of two fire trucks and seven professional firefighters helps prevent loss of life and also significantly reduces the damage caused by fires. The 2015/16 Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board Annual Report states that 88.1% of all structure fires in the Metropolitan Fire District were contained to the room of origin.

I've previously been stationed on the edge of the Metropolitan Fire District at Epping Fire Station and have been responded to fires in the Country Fire Authority area. I've attended fires where only one staffed truck along with trucks from volunteer stations have been responded. Often the truck of professional firefighters is on scene for extended periods of time before volunteers arrive. This places the professional firefighters in danger as there is no backup available should anything go wrong and does not allow enough firefighters on the fireground for all roles to be initially completed. This also places residents in these areas in danger if there are not enough firefighters arriving in a timely manner to perform a rescue and also increases the amount of damage done by fires before enough firefighters are on scene to contain them. People in the outer Melbourne growth suburbs deserve the same guaranteed fire response and protection as those that live or work within the Metropolitan Fire District.

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

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider the positive impact and benefits to the community from the proposed fire services reform.

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

I request that my submission is made confidential.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

