

To whom it may concern.

My name is Gwen Reisenberg and I have been a professional firefighter with the CFA for 2 years. I am currently based at Patterson River fire station.

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

Patterson River fire brigade has a primary area that includes Patterson Lakes, Carrum, Chelsea & Seaford. We provide support to Edithvale, Carrum Downs, Frankston, Dandenong South and surrounding areas.

I think you would agree that these are heavily urbanised and residential areas.

The Victorian fire service boundaries have not changed in 60 years. Under the current zoning this area, along with many other urban areas, is considered 'regional' or 'country' Victoria.

I have personally had members of the public come up to me at jobs and be completely surprised that the CFA covers their area, they assume that they are in an MFB area as the suburbs we're talking about have long been considered metropolitan Melbourne.

These built up areas need to be modernised as they are now highly urbanised areas. The fire services reform would see that these areas are covered by a professional fire service. A fire service that can guarantee an 8 minute response, 7 professional career firefighters and two fire trucks at every call.

This is absolutely necessary for the safety of the community and the effectiveness of the service we provide.

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

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for 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 volunteers firefighters due to the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I ask that along with my request to modernise the fire service you give thought to the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the next fire season. This is vitally important to me and my colleagues.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you can now understand how archaic the current boundaries and services are and why this reform is so important for community safety and firefighter safety, including my own.

Kind regards

Gwen Reisenberg

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