

Kirra Vanzetti

From: COTTIER, Brendan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 9:43 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Brendan Cottier and I am a Firefighter within the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I have been in the fire services for approximately 2.5yrs and in that time have seen only positive reasons for the Fire Service Reform to occur.

We are in great need of improvement as the growth of the Melbourne Metropolitan Boundaries has far exceeded the much out dated full time response areas. As you could appreciate in an emergency situation, every second is critical in the ability to save lives and property. We have massive populations that are now not covered by a timely emergency response with any guarantee that help will arrive. This is just not good enough. Victorians deserve better and deserve to feel protected. I myself live in one of these areas and after discussing this issue with residents in my local community, we fear that unless these changes occur, our families are put at a greater risk.

Another issue that I would like to make note of is the need to have a minimum of 2 full time trucks with a guarantee of at least 7 firefighters dispatched to fire calls. This is a must for the safety of both the civilian/s in need as well as us as firefighters. In no way am I undermining the value and the great work volunteers do, but as you could appreciate, what we do is dangerous and we need to know that backup is going to arrive in a timely manner.

I currently work at Greensborough Fire Station which sits just inside the boundary of the MFB/CFA border. In my time here I have experienced multiple occasions when turning out to fire calls within the CFA area, we are the first on scene and have a far too long of a gap until the CFA arrive. Again, I am not discouraging the work volunteers do but in an area that has been highly populated for decades now, **it's time for change**.

I hope that you can understand the importance for the reform to go ahead and make the right decision.

Let's make Victoria safer for everyone.

Yours Sincerely,

Brendan Cottier
Metropolitan Fire Brigade
Greensborough Fire Station #16
[REDACTED]

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