

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Phillip Leach [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 10:07 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform Submission - FF Phillip Leach

I have grown up around CFA all of my life having lived at Fiskville in the 80's whilst my father was an instructor and at the rear of Wodonga Fire Station in the 90's whilst he was the Station Officer/ Regional Officer before his retirement. Growing up I spent a lot of time around volunteers and became a junior firefighter as well as a volunteer myself before work and life made it difficult to continue as a volunteer. I have been a career firefighter for three and a half years now and can see firsthand the struggle the volunteers face to juggle the Work/ Family/ Volunteer lifestyle. I work at Wangaratta Fire Station and continue to live in Wodonga and have seen the population and growth of both towns increase considerably. With this I see the vital importance the career staff and volunteers have in protecting these communities. Here in Wangaratta we severely lack the resource of a second pumper and continually have failure to respond from surrounding support brigades with many having to work some distance from their station and the leave it to the staff mentality which comes from false alarms and small nothing fires which is not always the case which means repaging is required and a time delay for a support crew.

The formation of FRV and a volunteer CFA would strengthen the service provided to the communities. I can see a great benefit having the CFA return to the great volunteer organisation it once was with renewed enthusiasm and funding to recruit a new generation of volunteers and having the career staff as part of FRV would benefited with increased knowledge that support and the extra resources a second volunteer pumper in Wangaratta would provide. I make this submission from my experiences from Wangaratta only but understand the greater importance this reform has in the protection of the larger communities surrounding Melbourne.



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