

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,  
Department of the Legislative Council  
Fire Services Bill Select Committee

**I wish this submission to be treated as Confidential.**

Dear Committee,

I have 27 years of service as a volunteer and 31 years as an employee with CFA.

**I do not believe that the proposed Fire Service reforms will be of benefit to the fire services or Victoria.**

Volunteers at the current CFA Integrated Brigades will no longer have their own response area, but will simply be a support to the Fire Rescue Victoria Brigade. Over time these CFA brigades will see a steady reduction in call outs as the FRV staff numbers grow thus reducing their skills, experience, and membership, to a point where the CFA's brigade's viability would be in doubt.

Local communities will see two sets of infrastructure in the town, two fire stations, fire fighters wearing different clothing and badges etc. This will not instil any confidence in the general public but simply be seen as a waste of money.

I have full confidence that in times of need all Victorian Fire Fighters will pull together, this has always happened in the past and there is no reason why it will not continue to happen in the future, regardless of how the fire services are structured in Victoria.

**A better plan.**

It is my view a true win would have been ONE Fire Service for Victoria. This in the longer term would produce real savings and benefits by combing all of MFB and CFA (staff and volunteers) into one Fire Service.

Any changes need to take into consideration all employees not just the Fire Fighters who only make up two thirds of CFA and MFB's employees.

One fire service would mean no demarcation, and one fully functioning fire service for Victoria without the constant worry of interoperability.

**In Summary**, whilst the Presumptive Rights is a win, the Reform of the Fire Services has not been well thought out and in my view is a step backwards for fire services and the Communities of Victoria

Yours sincerely,

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