

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** CASEY, Troy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2017 10:48 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Legislative Change

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

I am a currently serving fire fighter in the MFB, stationed at Fire Station 24 which is Malvern. My rank is FF3 and I am approaching 2 years' service not including my 4 months spent in recruits.

I am taking this opportunity to comment on the recent suggested changes to the Fire Service in Victoria, including such things as changes to boundaries and merging the full time CFA members and The MFB into one and creating a new fire fighting entity.

With regards to planned changes to the existing boundaries that differentiate between so called 'city' or 'suburban' and 'country', logic says that it is time. To be fair the time was probably realistically about 20 years ago and it should have been an evolving boundary to accommodate the rapid changes in population density. The areas previously defined as rural in many cases may have been market gardens, fields or small farms. However, now these areas have been built up to such a level that the only difference from an inner city area to a suburb past the outer limits of the Metropolitan Fire District is, in many cases, the age of the constructed materials that the buildings are made of.

Being that these areas now contain the same kinds of fire risks they deserve to have the same quality and urgency of response. While the MFB is held to a standard of response and service it is hard to expect that in areas that are still volunteer brigade only areas, that they can be held to the same standards. They cannot realistically respond in the same amount of time, they do not receive the same quality of training and in many cases they do not have Breathing Apparatus which is essential for house fires. Even when they do have them on a truck very few members are trained to use them and even those that have the training, will have very little experience if they do.

Therefore to have a fire service that can accommodate full time MFB and CFA members and streamline equipment, operating procedures and training to me makes sense. Already we turn out with the CFA in areas where our borders overlap. When we go into their area we have to use their couplings, adapt to their protocols and work alongside them. We already train our recruits at the same training facility and we can currently choose to do secondments within the CFA. For all intents and purposes the sub/urbanized areas where the MFB and CFA full time staff work in are virtually the same. So it stands to reason that we both should be learning the same types of fire fighting techniques and move towards becoming one Fire Service provider for urbanized and suburbanized areas within Victoria.

And in areas that are still rural, have smaller populations and housing density and hence require a reduced frequency/level of response what better place to have a true Country Fire Authority. One that is volunteer based, that trains for different types of fire scenarios, that has its own set of rules and equipment and is not expected to work outside the realm of its competence or be involved in politics that doesn't affect it. I believe that the CFA should be given back to its small community roots so that full time fire fighters can be allowed to continue to provide the high level of service in urban areas without being distracted by unnecessary politics.

I have not touched on all the issues that this reform will disseminate but these are the issues that I feel resonate most with me. I hope that my contribution might make a difference,

Sincerely,

Troy Casey  
[REDACTED]

Disclaimer: This submission is made by me as a concerned private citizen whose profession is fire-fighting. This submission is not being made in any capacity as a public official and any views expressed are personal and do not necessarily represent the views of my employer, being the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB).

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