

Kirra Vanzetti

From: CALLEGARI, Lou [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 7:26 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service restructure

Lou Callegari

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My name is Lou Callegari,

I have been employed by the MFB for 37 years and achieved the rank of Station Officer, I am currently stationed at Broadmeadows, but have served several years at Somerton, Epping, Thomastown and Pascoe Vale and various other stations.

In my years as a firefighter and Station Officer I have worked in various buffer zone stations where there was a full time Fire Service turning out to fires with volunteer fire service. In the past we have relied on the good will of volunteers to attend

Fires, car accidents, chemical spills and other dangerous incidents, the problem we face today and is proven that our response time is time critical for saving of lives and to stop the incident from escalating to a catastrophe.

Our response to all our calls are within 7 minutes of being alerted, this is not obtainable though a Volunteer Fire Service as they are required to be paged, arrive at the station man their appliance and then proceed to the fire.

I reside in Westmeadows and have for 37 years, in that time I have seen the expansion of population in the growth corridors of Greenvale, Craigieburn, Sunbury and Mickleham.

The prediction for next 25 years is that the population of Melbourne Victoria is expected to double, causing huge growth corridors of housing in the fringe areas of the metropolitan area, the need for a restructure of the full time fire service as the Victorian Fire Rescue Service is inevitable for the protection of life and property in Urban settlement. People who choose to buy and live in these new satellite cities which will be erected sooner than we think as the population indicator shows, have a right to feel they have a professional full time service close at hand which they can rely on to come to their aid in times of need, knowing that they will have a minimum of 7 professional firefighter responding and attending within 7 minutes in built up housing or future development is an essential to the protection of life and property in rural areas of the future.

The high risk in all the new areas range from increase nursing homes being erected for our increasing elderly, the constant introduction of numerous chemicals coming into the market each year, which we all are kept up to date with and their harmful attributes to humans and animals, and the modern day housing where high dense populated areas of medium high rise apartments is prevalent every where now.

It is notable that a career fire fighter is for life a volunteer can come and go as they see fit because they are voluntary and we rely on their good will if they show up or not.

As politicians you should have a duty and responsibility to foresee the needs of the public for the next 25 years not the next 3 years whilst you are elected and making the right decisions for the good of public safety.

Thank You
Lou Callegari

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