

Kirra Vanzetti

From: KEATING, Michael (10348) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 7:44 AM
To: LCSC
Cc: KEATING, Michael (10348)
Subject: Fire Services Bill Select Committee 2017 - submission

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Mick Keating and I am a Leading Firefighter in the MFB. I live in Brunswick and work at the Brunswick fire station and have been with the MFB for 12 years.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

As a firefighter, it is imperative to have guaranteed back up. Two trucks with at least 7 firefighters ensures the safety of the crews and allows us to perform rescue and firefighting in a safe and swift manner. This results in lives saved and property protected.

Employing all career firefighters in one service will be more efficient and will NOT adversely affect volunteer turnout or surge capacity. The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas and will therefore have no impact on volunteer brigades or bushfire response. These reform areas are now highly urbanised/residential. Residents of these areas deserve a professional full time firefighting service as well as the benefits of the EMR program successfully operating within the metropolitan fire district.

The initial cost of such reform would be negated by the ongoing savings associated with the standardisation of training, procedures and equipment.

This ongoing dispute has been bad for the morale of career firefighters. It has caused much angst and personal stress to many. However, my colleagues have continued to maintain their high level of professionalism and concern for community safety throughout despite the pressure created by the current climate.

Furthermore, the reform will benefit volunteers as it has included a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA and includes funding for volunteer station and equipment upgrades.

Yours Sincerely,

LFF Mick Keating

[REDACTED]

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