

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** David Eltringham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FIRE SERVICES RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

I make my submission to this proposal being a member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) since the age of 15 years. I am now 73 years old!

I have 58 years, a lifetime of service and affiliation, following on from both my Father and Grandfather who were members of the previous CFBB.

Our CFA is for many Victorians "A Family", more particularly it is "Our Family".

The esprit de corps of the CFA is a reality that Governance cannot create or indeed, should influence.

In many communities it is the fabric that equals the "Footy Club" or the CWA!

Having served in CFA Brigades in Belgrave, Wangaratta, Mildura and now Horsham HQ Brigade, I consider I have a better than many understanding of how our treasured CFA works for Victorian communities. It is about self sacrifice without reward for the benefit of the community. This is a concept not recognized by those who are seeking of other rewards such as of pay and conditions!

With regard to current proposals my opinion is that there is a need to reconsider the outer MFB boundary, but NOT to alter the structure of the CFA or the MFB by the formation of the "FIRE/RESCUE" concept for all of Victoria.

Regional Centres should stay as is, that is with the CFA, where the aspirations of many CFA Volunteers are to continue in the "family" of the CFA.

Regional City Brigades with Paid and Volunteer membership give support through their professional and volunteer membership to incidences throughout Country Victoria. This structure, that has been operationally successful, particularly with major incidents or wildfires and as indicated by the Black Saturday Commission Review, does not warrant change but continued support.

With regard to MFB boundaries, I suspect that as there was differing legislative arrangements for funding of the two "authorities" with the MFB being financially contributed to by Local Government, there was historical financial reasons why wider LG fire services boundaries were not changed. In 2017 with the now Fire Services Levy, this encumbrance can be discounted. Without detail study I would consider the Fire boundary responsibilities (and Brigades) of Bayswater, Rowville, Boronia, Dandenong, Doveton, Springvale, Caroline Springs and other outer Melbourne areas could now understandably be placed under MFB jurisdiction.

Perhaps a review of responsibilities, membership and objectives could also be carried out on the United Firefighters Union (UFU) to make membership opportunities for Volunteers available thereby giving a single voice and truly "UNITED" to all Victorian Firefighters.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute further to this review.

Sincerely

David J Eltringham, OAM, FIE Aust, CP Eng  
[REDACTED]



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