

**Kirra Vanzetti**

---

**From:** Darren Roper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire Service Bill

I wish to make a contribution to the select committee regarding the Fire service Bill currently being considered. My name is Darren Roper, I am currently a Senior Station Officer with the MFB, I have been employed as a fire fighter for 28 years, previous to that I was a field mechanic, ( DMO) with the CFA. During my time with CFA I was also a volunteer with Ballarat City.

My qualifications as a Fire service member include, Diploma of public safety ( fire fighting management) Advanced diploma in business management Associate diploma in applied science, (Fire Technology)

Cert4 workplace training and assessment

I am also an accredited driving instructor and rope rescue instructor.

During my career I spent approximately 7 years in our training division, including recruits, HART, USAR and was instrumental in developing and rolling out a height safety system for all fire fighters, (which has recently been adopted by CFA and SES).

I have worked in many environments where there were a mix of agencies, and in areas far from Melbourne, including recently, Mildura. Accordingly, I believe I am qualified to offer a worthy contribution to the committee.

Firstly, I would like to set out my interest in the reforms, I live in the current MFB Fire District, so I enjoy 90 second response from strategically placed fire stations staffed with fire fighters who are trained in emergency medical response, breathing apparatus, incident management and many other, important skills. I also have the knowledge that if I have an emergency, a minimum of 2 appliances with a minimum of 7 fire fighters will be responded.

From a professional perspective, being a senior station officer in charge of a station of 12 fire fighters, to have the knowledge of the response and level of training that I can expect, allows me to concentrate on my job, which is protecting life and property. It allows me to not be second guessing who has got what qualification, or who can perform what task, having a consistent, professionally level of training for all fire fighters saves time and lives. I believe that the reforms as being presented offers the opportunity to produce this level of competency for both organisations.

I also have interests in the City of Ballarat and the Cardinia shire, and I firmly believe that these two thriving growing communities deserve the very best Fire and emergency service that can be provided at an acceptable cost to the community.

I believe that my family and friends in these communities should not be disadvantaged by politics or organisational egos.

Finally, these reforms offer a real chance to move on from over twenty years of disruption and dispute. The model being offered with a committee and commissioner running the services will offer real hope for industrial peace and allow all parties to move on to do their jobs. If nothing were to happen, too much damage has been done to return to where we have come from. The system is broken and the only way forward is to create the career service and to have CFA revert back to its original form of a volunteer fire fighting organisation. I believe that this will offer real opportunities for all parties and more importantly, this will be good for all Victorians into the future.

Respectfully,  
Senior Station Officer Darren Roper  
Richmond Fire Station

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad