

Submission to the Select Committee for the Fire Services Bill

John Taylor



Essendon

I am a Station Officer in the MFB and have 28 years' service.

I live in Essendon and am currently stationed at Sunshine Fire Station.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed Victorian Fire Services reforms.

The City and suburbs of Melbourne and major regional hubs of Victoria has over recent years, experienced an extraordinary increase in population, residential buildings, commercial and industrial premises and infrastructure.

There are 35 areas within Victoria that are classified as "country" but are now highly urbanised. These boundaries for the current Fire Services, categorising country and city were put in place 60 years ago have become antiquated.

The reforms would most benefit the communities around the 35 integrated stations by delivering an appropriate and efficient service that the community expects and is entitled to.

These reforms will have no effect on volunteer brigades, bushfire response or surge capacity. The volunteers will still have the ability to perform their vital role.

The volunteers will benefit with an injection of funding to assist recruitment, retention and station upgrades.

These reforms would guarantee that two trucks and seven firefighters will always be dispatched. This is extremely important to me as an officer, and for my crews safety, knowing that I am guaranteed backup support with the appropriate training and skills.

The reforms would provide financial benefits, productivity gains and efficiencies with the standardisation of training, response procedures, and equipment.

These reforms would put to rest the uncertainty of job direction and ease the detrimental impact of the ongoing industrial disputation that has had an effect on myself, my family and work colleges.

Yours sincerely

John Taylor