

Kirra Vanzetti

From: WOODS, David [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 1:02 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Service Reform Submission

My name is David Woods and I am currently a professional MFB firefighter for 30 years. I am the 'D' Platoon Commander for Northern District and responsible for the safety of the community and firefighters. I live in South Morang [REDACTED] which is in the CFA boundary area.

During my 30 years I have attended all types of emergency responses. These include house fires, high-rise fires, factory fires, grass scrub and bush fires, trench rescues, high angle rescues, Rapid Impact assessment and emergency medical.

Outside the Metropolitan Fire district I have responded to:

- Halls Gap Bush Fire
- Morewell Coal fire
- Ballarat Bush fire (protection of Elaine township)
- Black Saturday fire (numerous locations)
- Sydney Bushfires
- Tasmanian Bushfires
- Great Ocean Road landslips
- And many more.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I wish to make to following points:

- **Volunteers do a fantastic job and are vital for fire protection of Victorian in rural areas.**

As communities increase in size the number of emergency response calls also increases. Due to the commitments of work, families and life styles, volunteers are unable to respond at times to meet these response commitments. This in turn places the community at risk (life and property) as well as firefighter safety (less firefighters on the fireground especially in the early stages when they are most vital).

- **The fire service boundaries are outdated and must change.**

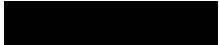
Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. I have spent most of my 30 years as a firefighter based in the Northern suburbs and I have seen the changes to the communities. I can see the problems that occur due to the out-dated fire service boundaries. What was once grass and bush lands are now built up communities that need a modern fire services. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in these highly urbanised areas.

This is an issue that can be fixed under the proposed fire services reform. To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to talk further about my personal experiences as a professional firefighter and why this reform is so important.

Kind Regards

Commander David Woods
MFB Northern District, D Platoon



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