

To Members of the select committee FSR,

I am a leading fire fighter currently working at Rosebud fire station, and whilst this is my place of work it is also the area that my family reside.

This situation puts me in a slightly different scenario to a lot of my fellow fire fighters, seeing the reform from both a professional and personal perspective when it comes to separating staff from volunteers, in the areas where call rates and significant risks dictate a need for such.

In an area that has currently only one staff appliance response to most calls, it begs the question do the people closer the city deserve a greater response with shorter response times, and a guaranteed level of training and qualification?

Whilst volunteers are relied upon very heavily on the Mornington peninsula and are generally able to manage response in rural areas with smaller populations, it is an outdated and incorrect assumption that they can do the job that is required in the busier areas. They can however continue to assist in all aspects of the emergency response as required. Which is what volunteering is all about.

Integration is an outdated model that is based around volunteers and rural firefighting, why would you not have one professional fire service? With the ability for firefighters work in all environments gaining knowledge and experience in all aspects of what we do, as you all know experience is the greatest tool for teaching.

It will be an initial cost to the state, but in the long run it will all equal out, this is not about money for us it is about joining with our fellow firefighters in order to do what we signed up to do, that is to serve and protect the community to the best of our ability, help us do this by putting in a positive recommendation for the fire service reform.

Lastly, this reform will in no way limit the response of any volunteer or staff member to any significant incident where required, or will it in no way alter the ability of both professional firefighters and volunteers to work together at such incidents.

I thank you for your time,

Kind regards,

Daniel Lee

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