

Samuel Delany



June 29, 2017

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Fire Service Bill Committee

My name is Sam Delany, I am a professional fire-fighter with the Country Fire Authority. I currently hold the position of Qualified fire-fighter at Springvale fire station, in my 3.5 years' service I have also been stationed at Boronia fire station as well many opportunities to work at a number of other locations.

I currently live in Bayswater, I grew up in Chirnside Park, where my mum still lives, with many of my extended family living in the Eastern suburbs, in areas such as Boronia, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn and Lilydale. The other day I was talking to my 91 year old Grandma, trying to explain the current situation, she was a resident of Bayswater for 52 years buying her house in 1964, she informed me when they moved in, they were one of the only houses on the street, and the surrounding area was paddocks and orchards. Now it is surrounded by townhouses, schools, hospitals and factories.

The main point I wish to express in this personal submission, is that every industry is growing and developing. There have been major advancements in efficiency of work process', technology and infrastructure. No system of work currently used, was used 50 years ago without some form of updating, and the fire services should be no different. We are in desperate need for a reform to modernise the service.

The advancements in skills, knowledge, equipment and truck design mean that a better service can be provided today than ever before, we should be utilising these advancements. Fire fighters are a work force asking to be allowed to work more, go further and provide better service for the community we care for, but are being held back.

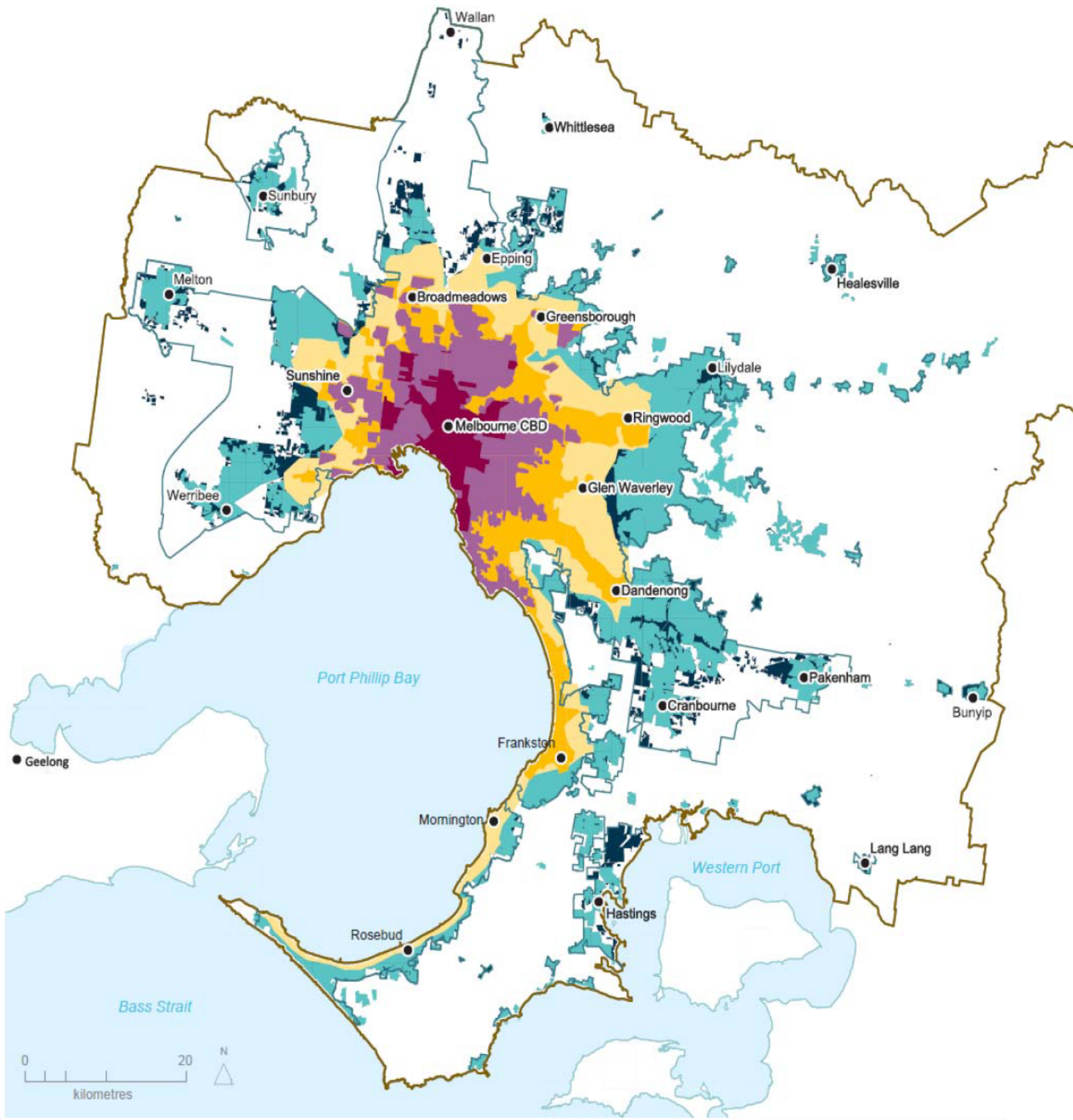
Recently I discovered a government website (<http://planmelbourne.vic.gov.au>) which shows the urban growth of Melbourne since 1883, the map (attached below. <http://planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/maps>) also indicates that urban growth into areas such as

Cranbourne, Pakenham, Hallam, Dandenong, Boronia, Lilydale, Epping, Sunbury, Melton and Werribee dated back in 2001, in terms of fire service boundaries these areas are still considered 'Country' which is leaving these communities at major risk of a substandard fire service. The outer brown coloured boundary line indicates what is considered Metropolitan Melbourne region today. The fire service needs reform.

Just as you would listen to a doctor regarding illness or a pharmacist regarding medication. I ask you to listen to the professional fire fighters who truly understand our dynamic work environment, the associated risks and the areas in which can be improved. We care for the community and they deserve the best service possible.

Sincerely,

Samuel Delany
Qualified Firefighter - CFA



Map 1

Melbourne's urban growth

