

To whom it may concern,
My name is Erin Pena, and I would like to register my support for the Fire Service reforms.

I live with my husband and one year old child in a built up residential area on the edge of the massive grassland and bush land of the Plenty River and Plenty River Gorge to the north. I am very keen to see a review of the service boundaries. We feel particularly vulnerable to bush fire here, despite living in a residential area.

Whilst I am sure of the enthusiasm of the volunteer firefighters from the Diamond Creek CFA station whose area we are in, I believe that during the day nobody is in attendance there and the volunteers could be working a sizeable distance away, meaning that their response time could be very long if at all! It has been a very long time, (before I was even born), since parts of Greensborough, Diamond Creek, Eltham and Templestowe would have been considered "the country".

The Fire Levy we pay is a higher rate in this CFA area than for the people who live a few hundred metres away on the other side of the Plenty River in the MFB area, and we get less service! That's unfair.

Because we live in such a high risk area, I strongly support the long overdue reform of firefighting services in the ever expanding urban areas that will see the formation of a new larger career staffed urban fire service Fire Rescue Victoria, to ensure professional standards, quick response times as well as implementing ongoing reviews of the boundaries. I believe these changes can only be a good thing.

Erin Pena

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