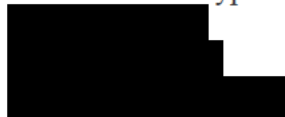


Mr. Michael Maypiece



Tuesday 4th July, 2017

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street,
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members,

Re: Fire Service Bill,

I am a career firefighter having served with the CFA for over thirty two years; I currently hold the rank of Senior Station Officer. I support the proposed Fire Service Bill, for the following reasons.

Impact on fire service delivery:-

- When supporting or being supported by volunteer crews, the number and competency level is not known until they have arrived on scene. This may delay the opportunity to attack/rescue in a structure fire scenario.

For example:-

We responded (a crew of two) to an alarm, as support to a volunteer brigade; it was an aged care facility, with non ambulant patients. The volunteer brigade tanker arrived with only a driver, which meant immediate rescue and/or fire attack could have been compromised.

The reason for this example is to show that at times we may not provide the best possible fire service delivery to the people of Victoria.

Effect on volunteer engagement and participation in fire service delivery:-

- The delivery of the volunteer fire service would not be impacted by the new Victorian Fire Service, as volunteers will still continue to respond to all calls in the same manner as they have always done. Volunteer brigades will still have the ability to cancel any career fire support if they decide they have sufficient resources to cover a call.

Restoring the CFA to a fully volunteer organization allows the CFA to cultivate a better workplace concentrating on training and equipment for individual brigades.

The ongoing industrial dispute has caused staff/volunteer relations to come to an all time low. The fire station has become a reactive rather than a productive environment to work in. Over the last four years I have seen my fellow work colleagues degraded and demoralized by the continuous use of firefighters being used as political footballs.

In conclusion over the last thirty two years I have witnessed an increased demand for an urban based fire service in the area where I have worked most of my career. The rural fire stations that surrounded the Frankston area are now mostly urban, placing an ever increasing workload on those volunteer stations.

The rationale of giving those who volunteer their time and effort the independence and self governance is also I think long overdue. Along with this career staff from FRV will continue to work productively with the volunteers within the new system established and will provide an opportunity for that relationship to be reset in a positive manner for the protection of the Victorian community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Michael T. Maypiece