

Wednesday 5th July, 2017

Mrs Karen Maypiece

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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**

As a spouse of a CFA career firefighter who has been in the fire service for 32 years, I wish to advise you that I am extremely supportive of the proposed fire service reforms.

With the rapid growth in Melbourne and its outer suburbs we have outgrown our current fire service. Major regional cities are also experiencing population expansions.

The current system has largely remained unchanged since the 1950's and now it's time to update our current fire services. The establishment of a Fire Rescue Victoria will ensure the modernization of the current fire service; ensuring a safer environment for firefighters and their community as a whole.

Volunteers have to sacrifice so much of their family life in order to provide protection for the people they serve. Creating an organization that can focus on their brigade's needs and that of the community will provide the ultimate solution for all concerned.

FRV and the CFA will always work together to provide a service for the people of Victoria wherever it is needed.

- FRV will bring together the skills of career firefighters from MFB and CFA together, providing a modern and responsive fire service. All career firefighters would have access

to the same training and equipment, allowing for more highly qualified career firefighters in the one organization.

- Allow CFA to return to its grass roots as a volunteer community focused firefighting organization. The CFA will be able to concentrate on training, equipment requirements and promoting volunteer firefighting.
- Improve workplace issues including low morale brought about by the constant protracted industrial relations negotiations.

As a member of the community it is important to me that we have an up to date fire service protecting everyone.

As the wife of a firefighter I want to be assured my husband will return home safely at the end of his shift.

Knowing he has the 'back up' required, when he 'turns out' would be reassuring to me.

These last four years have been discouraging and demoralizing for firefighters and their families. The stress and trauma of this last EBA negotiation has caused an increase in the mental health issues of career firefighters.

This is extremely disturbing and has to be taken into consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Maypiece

