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Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Select Committee
Parliament House Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members,

Re Fire Services Bill

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to put forward my point of view for your perusal.
I am in full support of this restructure of the Fire Services in Victoria.

Having been raised in country Victoria, I totally support the CFA Volunteers in rural areas continuing as they have for many decades and am grateful for their dedication. I cannot see a change having an impact on their service to their communities.

However, having moved to a Regional City for secondary education ('69) and still having family members living there, I have watched this City grow enormously over the years.

After getting married, we moved to Werribee ('78), to what was a country town halfway between Melbourne and Geelong. Having lived here for many years, a town of 23,000 has grown to close to 200,000 and is now classed as Melbourne Metropolitan. Currently the Wyndham area is growing by 180 new residents a week. The outer Metropolitan area is expanding at an incredible rate in every direction.

For these reasons, I firmly believe that all large Regional Cities and the Melbourne Metropolitan area need to be covered by permanent Fulltime Firefighters for the benefit of ever expanding communities. The Integrated Stations show that both Career and Volunteers can co-ordinate together successfully. In the present environment, many people have to travel for work which puts a strain on the availability of some volunteers. This is not a criticism, but a reality for even the most dedicated members, We are still under the boundaries drawn up in the 1950s, these boundaries I feel are well overdue for an overhaul. The Fire Service in Victoria has to be modernized and brought up to the current and future growth of this state.

I have family members who have been Volunteer Firefighters who are now Career Personnel, so I have had a longstanding personal involvement with the CFA. I value each and every Firefighter regardless of them being a Career or Volunteer and their dedication to the safety and welfare of every Victorian.

This restructure of the Fire Services is something I think is well overdue and I am excited that it will massively improve the turnout /response time with the knowledge that there are fully manned, well equipped ready to roll out to a call in the built up areas of our state.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on this Bill.

Regards
Pam Reynolds