

Kirra Vanzetti

From: KENNEDY, Chad [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July 2017 9:46 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Submission for Fire Services Review

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

I am a Leading Fire Fighter with the MFB, currently stationed at West Melbourne Fire Station. I am also qualified as a Control Unit Operator and Structural Fire Fighting Instructor.

I support the proposed fire service reform as it will have a tangible, positive impact on public safety within Victoria.

As a fire fighter, I know that it is vital that there is sufficient back-up on scene in order to enable safe and effective fire fighting operations. Without a minimum of 7 firefighters dispatched within 8 minutes of a fire, firefighters are forced to make decisions that can put either themselves, the public or property at greater risk. Having sufficient fire-fighters on scene ensures that all fireground operations can be carried out in a safe and timely manner.

Increasing the fire response in the 35 'integrated' areas of Melbourne will ensure that residents and businesses in these areas receive the response they deserve (and are paying for through their Fire Service Levy). This increased response will have a positive impact on the safety of people in these areas, and increase the safety of public and private assets within these communities.

Moving all paid firefighters to one organisation will streamline and harmonise training, response standards and equipment, which will ensure a consistent and effective response to all incidents within all highly urbanised areas within our state. It will also result in reduced administrative and management related costs.

Volunteers with the CFA will benefit as they will receive additional funding and support. This will include support for recruitment and volunteer retention, and will ensure that volunteer skills are maintained to allow them to continue to provide their valuable support to their communities. Current training and support provided by OO's, OM's etc will continue to be available to CFA volunteers via the FRV.

The proposed reform will allow all firefighters to move on from a very damaging and hurtful few years, which has seen the erosion of morale and contributed to negative mental health outcomes for some fire-fighters. Adopting the proposed reform will allow all Volunteer and Career firefighters to move on, and focus on community safety.

Regards,

Chad Kennedy
MFB Leading Fire Fighter

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