

Kirra Vanzetti

From: MURPHY, Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 9:43 AM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Submission

Fire Services Bill Committee

My name is Douglas Murphy. I am a Station Officer stationed at the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Boards Heidelberg Fire Station (15). I have 10 years' experience as a professional Fire Fighter with the MFB.

I live in South Morang which is a CFA area (District 14) and grew up in Rural Victoria (Euroa) where my father was an Ambulance Paramedic for 35 years and a Community Volunteer with the SES during that time. I also volunteer within my community where I donate my time coaching kids in Junior Basketball and assist with the running of the Basketball club.

I am writing to you in support of the proposed Fire Services Reform legislation. When looked at from both sides of the fence I fail to see how this does not benefit all parties. Volunteers will be able to operate as a separate identity free from any real or perceived influence caused by having Professional Fire Fighters as a part of the same organisation. However they will still receive the support and assistance that we can provide to them when required, this includes surge capacity which would not be affected.

Additionally this Reform will allow the Fire Services to modernise and adapt to the community as it grows. Community safety is the main priority for all parties both Professional and Volunteer. As an area grows 24/7 coverage becomes pertinent for community safety. This reform will remove all of the politics from the situation and ensure that safety remains the number 1 priority.

South Morang although staffed by professional Fire Fighters now, this took far too long in my opinion as a Fire Fighter and a resident. This was due to politics and KPI's, which in my opinion can easily be fudged, the current model needs to go.

I am happy to discuss any of this further with you if required.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

Station Officer Douglas Murphy | B Platoon
Heidelberg Fire Station | Northern District
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board
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