

*Luke Heazlewood,*



6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Fire Services Bill Select Committee

E: [LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members,

**RE: Victorian Fire Services Reform and Legislation.**

I write to you in support of the Fire Services Reform currently being proposed by the state government.

As an MFB fire-fighter I look forward to hopefully working closer with current CFA career staff members in the future. I am currently stationed at Oakleigh Fire Station and was previously stationed at Vermont South. On a number of occasions we have turned out with CFA career members and the level of professionalism and respect shown has been immense.

When we have turned out with CFA appliances I am left astonished that these areas are considered country when they are clearly built up urbanised suburbs. I understand that in the past many of these areas would have been rural but times have changed and I firmly believe that we need to modernise our fire services and move on from an out-dated model.

When census data is released showing that Melbourne is the fastest growing city in the country I can't help but wonder what this state will look like in another 10 or 20 years with the urban sprawl quickly expanding. It is imperative that changes be made sooner rather than later in order to prepare for the major changes coming to this state. I have attached at the bottom of this page (Victoria in future, 2016) a table that shows the projected population growth in regional areas over the next few decades. If the projections are correct the population of regional Victoria will almost double by 2051 compared to 2011 further illustrating the need for a modernised fire service.

There will always be a need for volunteers and the job they do in rural and semi-urbanised areas is vital. I appreciate that the new reforms will allow current volunteers at integrated stations to remain volunteering at those stations. The work volunteers perform is vital but they cannot always be available to quickly respond due to family, work or other commitments. It is therefore vital that we as a state continue to expand the number of full time career fire-fighters as our state continues to grow.

I think it is fantastic that both volunteers and career staff will be covered by presumptive cancer legislation if these reforms pass and it will benefit generations to come.

Please endorse the FRV and bring our fire services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Respectfully yours,

Luke Heazlewood  
 MFB Level 3 Fire Fighter  
 Oakleigh Fire Station  
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**Table 2. Projections for Greater Melbourne and Victoria's regions, 2011 to 2051**

Total population	2011	2021	2031	2041	2051	Average annual percentage change			
						2011-2021	2021-2031	2031-2041	2041-2051
<b>Greater Melbourne Capital City Area</b>	4,169,400	5,106,700	6,058,800	7,016,000	8,024,100	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%
<b>Ballarat</b>	148,700	170,300	197,600	225,500	255,400	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%
<b>Bendigo</b>	142,700	164,700	190,700	217,300	245,400	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%
<b>Geelong</b>	256,600	303,400	358,300	418,300	485,600	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%
<b>Hume</b>	161,300	172,500	188,100	206,200	227,100	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
<b>Latrobe - Gippsland</b>	260,000	284,800	321,900	359,300	399,600	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
<b>North West</b>	149,600	147,700	150,100	153,400	157,400	-0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
<b>Shepparton</b>	127,000	134,200	144,500	154,800	165,600	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
<b>Warrnambool and South West</b>	122,600	121,400	123,400	125,200	126,400	-0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>All Regional SA4s</b>	1,368,500	1,499,000	1,674,500	1,859,900	2,062,400	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
<b>Victoria</b>	5,537,800	6,605,700	7,733,300	8,876,000	10,086,500	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%