

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

I am Senior Station Officer Joe Ferguson. I am currently Co-ordinating the Station Officers development/promotional course with the MFB. I have been employed with the MFB for 28yrs.

I live in Altona and work in Craigieburn

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons.

In order to look after the safety of our first responders in an emergency situation and to a higher degree of looking after the community's safety it is essential that two trucks with a minimum of 7 firefighters be dispatched within 8 minutes to all alarms of fire. This enables us as a fire service agency to deliver exception service to the community in a very safe and expedient manner.

This proposed reform will allow for a greater consistency of the professional service to the community and more importantly will not affect the great importance and commitment of the volunteer firefighters of Victoria. Volunteers support will remain at the highest level with operational firefighters being employed by FRV but will continue their roles through an arrangement with the CFA.

The reform areas are around the 35 integrated stations primary response areas, this will not effect other volunteer brigades or bush fire response. The 35 areas are now highly urbanised, high residential areas with much more industry. The areas not only expect but deserve 24/7 full time professional protection.

Kind regards SSO Joe Ferguson

