

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** Scott Holliday [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire servicesreform submission

My name is Scott Holliday and I work for the Country Fire Authority in the Communications Operations Department as a technical support service to both volunteers and also to the full time fire fighters, I have worked for the CFA for a period of 7 years as Communications technical services officer, and as part of my job I work very closely with both volunteers and full time fire fighters. I live in Mooroolbark and work in Bayswater.

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

Living in Mooroolbark which is a suburban built up area it is very important to me to have adequate response to incidents in our area, in particular to have a guarantee that two trucks with at least 7 fire fighters will be dispatched within 8 minutes.

In my opinion this level of response will give the community in built up suburban areas a much greater level of confidence in their fire service, as at the moment the volunteer response time is not guaranteed although the volunteers do a fantastic job and are revered and respected in the local community.

Also I have many friends that are volunteers and also having worked so closely with volunteers I do not believe the fire services reform will impact volunteer turnout or surge capacity at all, and many volunteers have in fact told me that the fire services reform will not have an impact on them continuing on as a volunteer or the important work that they do in any way.

The support that the volunteers receive will also not be affected as ops officers and field support staff such as myself in the Communications Operations area will continue as we do currently to support volunteers, although employed by Fire Rescue Victoria, will be Seconded to CFA to continue the important work that is currently supplied.

The reform area is around the 35 integrated stations primary response area, therefore there will be no effect on other regional brigades or bushfire response. These 35 areas are now highly urbanised, with high residential and industrial density, meaning that this old model is now out dated and in need of reform.

Having worked in the CFA for the past seven years I have directly seen the damage that the constant disputation in the workplace has inflicted on employees including myself. This constant disputation has produced frustration and anxiety by constant news articles and radio programmes smearing the name of people like myself who are only trying to do their jobs and serve the community, without reform it is my belief that this damage will continue to happen and will eventually mean that many good and dedicated staff will be lost because of the stress and strain will just be too much.

As part of my job as Communications technical services officer I complete work in volunteer stations on a constant basis, to consistently see banners, flyers etc reminding me of this long standing disputation is a

Cause of anxiety that just needs to stop.

The reform will benefit volunteers by including a package to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention across the CFA; and includes funding for volunteer station upgrades which will be a much needed shot in the arm to the fire services which is much needed.

All in all the benefits of this Fire services reform in clear to see and is an absolute must and are long overdue.

Yours Sincerely

Scott Matthew Holliday



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