

**Kirra Vanzetti**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 July 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** LCSC  
**Subject:** Fire services reform.

To whom it may concern,

I base this submission on personal experience and forward a brief outline as to why I believe I am qualified. I joined the MFB in 1989 as career firefighter and have been stationed at Croydon for the last twelve years. As a consequence I am at the interface of the CFA/MFB boundrys working with two integrated and six volunteer CFA stations. Furthermore I also believe the following also give me a unique insight into the fire services in Victoria.

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|----------|--|------------------------------|
| Jan 1985 | Family property badly damaged by bushfire          | Maryborough Central Vic.     |
| Dec 1990 | Deployment MFB taskforce bushfires                 | Warburton Yarra Valley Vic.  |
| Jan 1994 | Deployment MFB taskforce bushfires                 | Sydney Nsw.                  |
| Feb 2009 | Deployment MFB taskforce Black Saturday bush fires | Chum Creek Yarra valley Vic. |
| Sep 2014 | Deployment MFB taskforce Hazelwood mine fire       | Latrobe Valley Vic.          |
| Feb 2015 | Deployment MFB taskforce bushfires                 | Kilmore Central Vic.         |

The Victorian Fire Services have become an unmitigated mess. Its the culmination of decades of inaction and inappropriate action by governments of all persuasions. The structure of CFA volunteers,CFA career and MFB career firefighters divided by an outdated fire district boundry( drawn in the 1950s largely around reticulated water at the time). It has become inefficient, confusing and now divisive. Victoria and Melbourne in particular are supposed to be world class but maintain an antiquated and now dysfunctional fire service structure. The main stakeholders(in no particular order,Labour governments,Conservative governments,CFA , MFB ,VFBV ,UFU,The media and firefighters) are all somewhat at fault and collectively all at fault.

Firefighters both volunteer and career are frustrated and demoralised and often feel the goodwill and professionalism is now being destroyed by the fire service structure itself. Finally I am 55 years of age have recently moved to Croydon Hills after 30 years of rural living and now put up with the following ; Croydon Hills is a residential suburb closer to Melbourne than Croydon North and the Croydon Fire Station yet it falls within the CFA fire district and its primary fire cover is from Wonga Park CFA volunteer brigade. For this service I pay the CFA fire levy at twice the rate of the MFB fire levy, that simple fact alone( not to mention the operational problems of differing training,equipment,radios,managements,career paths,accountability to name a few) indicates how outdate the fire service has become.

I honestly believe that the Fire Rescue Victoria reform would be a start long overdue in improving emergency management in Victoria.

Andrew Marr  
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