

Cameron Grierson



To the Fire Services Bill Select Committee,

My name is Cameron Grierson and I am currently a Level 2 Career Firefighter for the Country Fire Authority at Cranbourne Fire Station. I am writing to you to show my support of the Victorian Fire Services Restructure.

Working as a full time firefighter at Cranbourne I see great benefits for the community in having a fire service that responds to the communities needs 24 hours a day 7 days a week. When we get a fire call we are required to be dressed and be in the truck and out the door within 90 seconds. Having been sent to Cranbourne straight out of recruit school at the end of 2015 I have responded to structure fires, non structure fires, MVAs (car accidents), grass and scrub fires, bushfires and Hazmat incidents. At Cranbourne we were also one of the test stations trialling Emergency Medical Response assisting Ambulance Victoria in the initial care of Priority Zero calls (life threatening). This trial has been considered a success for the protection and safety of the community and all 35 integrated CFA stations around Victoria will be implemented with EMR by 2019.

My workplace is located in the City of Casey which has been labelled the fastest growing area in Australia. With so much land around the area still available for expansion, population and growth of the area is set to skyrocket over the coming years. There is a definite need for a more modern fire service in this area to cope with the expansion and to be able to provide the protection needed in this ever growing community. Currently the model provided to the community is not adequate enough in such a large area and this situation is only going to get worse.

The volunteers that I work very closely with at Cranbourne and other surrounding brigades do a great job and we have an excellent relationship with the volunteers from all brigades in the area. Although with todays family and work commitments, extra traffic congestions the volunteers are finding responding to emergency calls increasingly difficult especially during daytime hours. In the past we have been responded to emergency calls where we have completed the job at the incident without any other appliance turning up. This not only places the community that we are here to protect at greater risk but it also places my fellow colleagues at a greater risk.

Having a modern more up to date urban fire service will ensure that the community that we are employed to protect know that they have the resources available and on route whenever the community needs them most and in their most vulnerable time. This can be provided by despatching 7 Career Firefighters split across 2 crews to be on scene in their primary area within 8 minutes of the emergency call coming in. Having more Career Firefighters in these fast growing areas in Victoria is vital to protect life and property in the future.

The facts are as it has been explained to us and to the volunteers at Cranbourne Fire Brigade is that the restructure made to the fire services across CFA in Victoria will not impact the volunteers in anyway. They will continue to contribute and apply their knowledge and skills and respond to emergency incidents just as they have always done in the past continuing to protect lives and property.

To be honest, the restructure of Victoria's Fire Services is long overdue with a 60 year model now severely outdated. It will be a big change, but a positive one. The boundaries of the urban sprawl around Melbourne are overflowing at a rapid rate through growth and our Fire Service needs to expand with these areas for the protection of our growing communities. The communities around Victoria deserve to have a reliable and efficient fire service whenever they are needed most and they are depending on us.

Kind Regards

Cameron Grierson
Level 2 Career Firefighter
Cranbourne Fire Station

