

Kirra Vanzetti

From: Jim Atkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 8:26 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: Fire Services Reform

Select Committee Members,

I write to you concerning the proposed Victorian government fire services reform.

First of all I must identify myself as a CFA volunteer of 10 years and a former retained member of Fire & Rescue in NSW for 20 years.

I believe that the current structure of the CFA has the potential to be world leading in emergency management due mainly to a single command structure, I note that New Zealand fire service have recently changed to a single service, giving a single command structure, common training and simplicity in managing major emergencies, something that never happens when multiple services are involved. No matter what is put in place issues arise around communication, command and responsibility.

These are all taken away by a single agency being responsible, If anything the reform should go all the way and have a single fire service in Victoria, the next best is a single fire service in country Victoria while maintaining the MFB with a look at adjustments to the boundary and possible structure for outer Metro where a Full time brigade is not warranted and possibly looking at a retained system similar to NSW.

Its unfortunate that the ongoing issues have come to this point, however now it has its a good opportunity to take the opportunity put a structure in place that will give the community the best possible service for the next 50 years (when it will be time for another review). I believe that a single service across country Victoria with a single command structure with no question around responsibilities and accountabilities is the best outcome for Victorians.

A single service also makes it much easier to expand and grow as regional centres expand and move to full time staff, also easily allows for temporary or seasonal crewing of a station then reverting to volunteer as required, in all it gives greater flexibility to the Chief Officer of a single service to protect the public.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission, I along with many and yourselves only want what is best for the community we currently serve, I am not against change and admit there is room for improvement, I also believe that a single agency is that best way forward instead of creating boundaries and issues around having two agencies combatting emergencies.

Please note I do not give permission for any part of the email to be made public

Regards

Jim Atkinson
[REDACTED]
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