Jamie Andrikopoulos



To Fire Services Reform Bill Select committee,

My name is Jamie Andrikopoulos #7101743, I currently hold the rank of Qualified Firefighter (QFF) at Geelong City Fire Station (CFA).

I have a fire service background for over 15 years, from volunteer, retained then career firefighter.

- Volunteer 2001-2007 CFA D14
- Retained 2007-2010 NSWFB (now FRNSW)
- Firefighter 2010-2011 ERT (Emergency Response Team, Victorian Desalination plant)
- Career Firefighter 2011-2013 Mildura Fire Station
- Career Firefighter 2013 Eltham Fire Station
- Career Fire Fighter 2014-2017 Mildura Fire Station
- Career Firefighter 2017 (March) present

My Skill sets include:

- Qualified Firefighter
- Rope Rescue Low and High
- Confined Space Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Ground observer
- Situation Unit Officer

Firstly, I would like to state that I am **FOR** this reform! It has been many years since any change has happened. As a tax payer, and an employee in this industry I feel like we (Victorians) are not getting the best value or service for this.

Whether it's Country areas like Mildura, outer metropolitan areas like Eltham or major Growth areas such as Geelong, they all have the same things in common.

- All classed as Country areas
- The areas are rapidly expanding in population
- Building and construction rapidly happening in volume, height and size
- Large increase of multi-cultures
- Work load of emergency services personal is dramatically increasing
- Volunteerism decreasing
- No guaranteed volunteer response or skill sets

Whilst I understand that we can't put 10/14 stations at every location in Victoria, we do need to have a look at the facts. The state's population is growing and with that lifestyles are changing.

Throughout my experience of working around the State, one other common trend I've seen is that 'volunteerism' is decreasing.

There are many reasons for this:

- being that the days of the 'Family' farm/blocks are no longer continuing through the generations of kids.
- High school students are continuing their studies and going to Uni's and leaving the country areas for the city's
- The lack of work in regional Vic is also driving families not only to the city's but to the outer metro areas

Throughout my time in the fire service in Vic, it is sad to see that Firefighter safety and the Safety of Victorians, and property loss is not a priority. On paper, it may look like it but, it's not.

The statement that 'all fire trucks' are the same with crews and skills sets is not correct. This reform will put consistency in the Fire service, as every time you see 'FRV' truck you know you will get a competent crew with a high skill set.

This will include an Incident controller/crew leader with Station Officer qualifications (therefor he must have passed assessments and be deemed competent), a Leading firefighter and 2x firefighter.

This crew will all be endorsed to:

- operate the vehicle under operational conditions (driving lights and sirens),
- be EMR trained (all will be as of 2018),
- Able to wear Breathing Apparatus and conduct search and rescue
- Able to wear splash and gas suits for hazmat
- Have basic Road Accident Rescue awareness
- And have all completed a Victorian recognised recruit course.

Currently, it is not fair that firefighters and officers are put into the position of having to wear BA and commence firefighting/ search and rescue activities 1 up due to no addition response. When we get assessed for career promotion to Leading Firefighter up to Station Officer level, we fail these assessments if we task firefighter to operate on their own. But somehow, it's expect for us to do this daily in non-controlled environment breaking safety rules and SO

Once again, we have stop pretending that the current mid 1900's system work, as we all know it doesn't and now is the time to change.

The fail to respond rate (SDS) is ridiculous, unfortunately we rely on vol's and hope they can get a truck/competent crew to respond to these incidents.

In the areas of Career firefighters there is a guaranteed response, but unfortunately if they are responding out of their primary area to fill the hole due to lack of vol response there now becomes no response for the primary area.

I will now elaborate on same examples of this, showing how the guessing game of volunteer response and firefighter community safety is compromised.

#### <u>EG 1</u>

On January 22 14 at 0101hrs, Inc No 1449849 (please see attached) a call came in for a smell of smoke in PJS Food works grocery store Mildura. On arrival, the structure was fully involved, then suffered major structural collapse.

- Mildura pumper (stationed 2.2km away) and Irymple pumper (stationed 6.5km away) where initially called.
- At 0105 Mildura pumper was on scene and requested 3 pumpers. (Merbein 13km away, Red Cliffs 13 km's away)
- The additional pumpers failed to respond and the structure fire was unable to be contained.
- It took the Irymple pumper 5hrs 42 min to respond 6.5 km away and a further 10min to arrive on scene
- It took Merbein pumper 20min to respond and a further 13min to arrive on seen
- It took Red Cliffs pumper 18min to respond and a further 22min to arrive on scene

As you can see from above these are not acceptable response times, not only jeopardising firefighter safety but not assisting in containing the fire. The municipal building surveyor then ordered the building to be demolished.

As a result, this structure fire was a loss over \$1,000,000. At this structure fire, myself and my fellow LFF used Breathing apparatus for a duration of 6 cylinders. Furthermore, to this throughout the incident there were incident of the volunteer skills not meeting the requirement of the appliance that they were trying to operate, this led to water being lossed on my hose line on several occasions, putting my safety at risk. (please see attached CFA Safe ref 14408)

#### <u>EG 2</u>

On March 11, 2013 at 1743 hrs, Inc No 1405041 (please see attached) roof fire came in for 14 Wayland Court Diamond Creek. The house was well alight resulting in demolition of the first floor of the property.

This property is in a CFA volunteer area that also has CFA career staff on its boundary (Eltham).

• At 1750hrs Eltham pumper response, arriving on scene at 1756hrs (7kms away)

- At 1751hrs Diamond Creek pumper illegible response, arriving on scene at 1807hrs (2.2kms away)
- These times indicate how having the 90sec response for career ffs makes a large difference in covering distance to jobs but in also commencing the initial aggressive firefighting.

This Fire ended up being \$350,000 worth of property and content loss for the middle-aged woman, who was also without her home for 18 months.

Another disappointment is the lack of Trench Rescue response in Victoria. (please see attachment with response distances from Mildura) The only station in the state able to get the equipment on scene in all of Victoria is Fire Station 10 (MFB Richmond). Currently the CFA stations that have trained operators are:

Mildura

**Geelong City** 

Wanambool

Hallam

Once again, another scary fact to all the trades personal working in these environments, hoping that they don't have a bad day at work. As the only emergency response they can receive outside of Melbourne CBD is body recovery!

Please support this REFORM!



#### Jamie Andrikopoulos

From: Sent: To: Subject:

Monday, 27 January 2014 1:08 PM Jamie Andrikopoulos CFASafe Incident 14408

Dear Jamie Andrikopoulos

#### Incident Acknowledgment

We acknowledge receipt of your incident and confirm the following:

- 1. Reference No.: 14408
- 2. Incident Date: 22/01/2014
- 3. Incident Location: pj's foodworks deakin ave mildura inc. F140109503
- 4. Incident Description: I was on a 38mm hose line doing an external fire attack and about to advance to do a internal fire attack when water was lost in my hose line, due to operator error. I was not able to continue my firefighting operations for up to 15min due to water in the hose line. 2nd incident was a 65mm hose getting charged 800kpa, in a pump relay (closed cicuit boost). The hose was not coupled to the truck and I noticed it. I had to jump on it to stop it fish tailing to avoid injuries to the pump operator and other firefighters, and to prevent damage to merbien pumper.

This incident has been reported to your supervisor to assess and consider appropriate corrective measures.

cfaSafe - Your Online Hazard & Incident Management System.

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Incident Summary Report [Ref: 14408] Date Printed: Monday, 27 January 2014



Person affected: Jamie Andrikopoulos

FIREFIGHTER

Details:

Name: Jamie Andrikopoulos ID Number: 7101743 Person Type: Employee

Position Title: FIREFIGHTER Business Unit: Loddon Mallee Region Person Workplace: MILDURA (3069394) Work Phone:

Email:

Country Fire Authority

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# Incident Summary Report [Ref: 14408] Date Printed: Monday, 27 January 2014

#### Details

Date of Incident: Wednesday, 22 January 2014 Proportion of hours/shift worked: 26%-50% Person Workplace: MILDURA (3069394) Date Logged: Monday, 27 January 2014 **HSR notified:** Matthew Duda Internal Reference Number: Time of Incident: 1:33 PM Incident Type: Near Miss Assigned To: Ron Shiner Did an injury occur: No **Fime Logged: 1:08 PM** Status: New

## Risk Assessment

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Residual Rate: nherent Rate:

#### Description

about to advance to do a internal fire attack when water was lost in my hose line, due to operator error. I was not able to continue my firefighting operations for up to 15min due to water in the was on a 38mm hose line doing an external fire attack and nose line.

to avoid injuries to the pump operator and other firefighters, and the truck and I noticed it. I had to jump on it to stop it fish tailing pump relay (closed cicuit boost). The hose was not coupled to 2nd incident was a 65mm hose getting charged 800kpa, in a to prevent damage to merbien pumper.

### Classification

What was the most significant cause: Human agencies Identify what occurred: Exposure to pressure variation

## Incident Location

The Incident is located: On site, MILDURA (3069394) Location Details: pj's foodworks deakin ave mildura Location Category: Fireground nc. F140109503 Page 2 of 3

Reports identifying people are confidential documents. Statistical information shall only be used for internal reporting purposes. Powered by riskware.com.au

Country Fire Authority

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# Work/activity Being Performed

Work/Activity Category: Structural Incident Activity Being Performed: exernal fire attack - internal fire attack pump operations

Responding to Emergency: Yes

## Property Damage

Was there any property involved/damaged: Yes. Third Party Asset/Property Description: the loss of the PJ'S Foodworks shop Estimated Cost: Was the asset/property damage planned: No

## Relevant Event

## Witness Details

Witness Available: Yes SSO Leigh Allan 50514100 0448 888 556

#### Notification

Manager/Supervisor: OO Ron Shiner Other Internal Person: SSO Leigh Allan External Person:

#### Actions

Actions Completed: This incident report. OperationI Analysis (28/1/14) to take place Mildura Fire Station Actions Recommended: Addition career staff Additional career staffed appliance. Competent volunteers firefighters on the fire ground, Competent volunteer trainers Appropriate crewed appliances

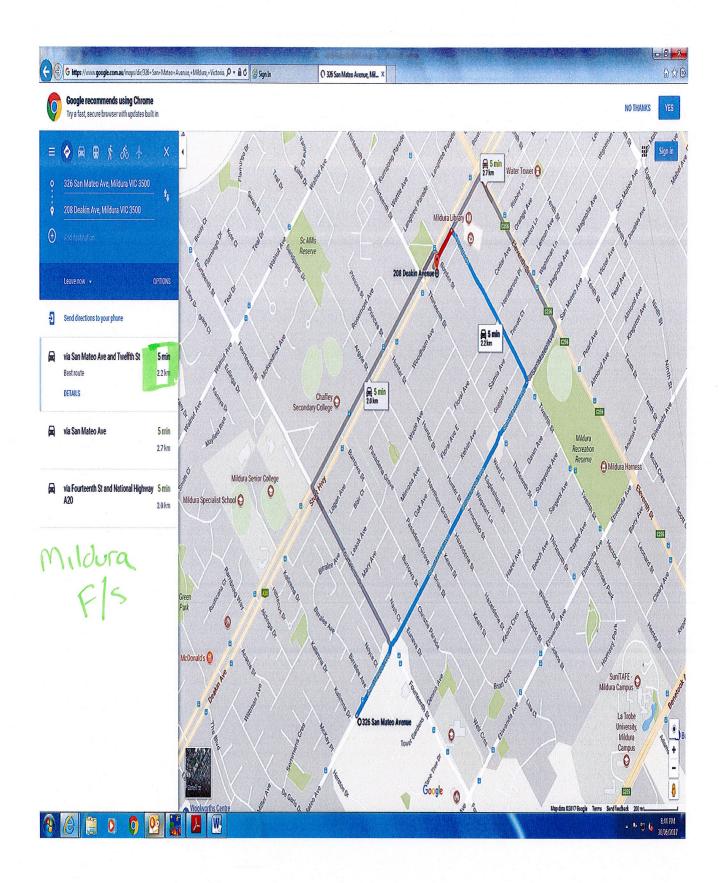
Reports identifying people are confidential documents. Statistical information shall only be used for internal reporting purposes. Powered by riskware.com.au

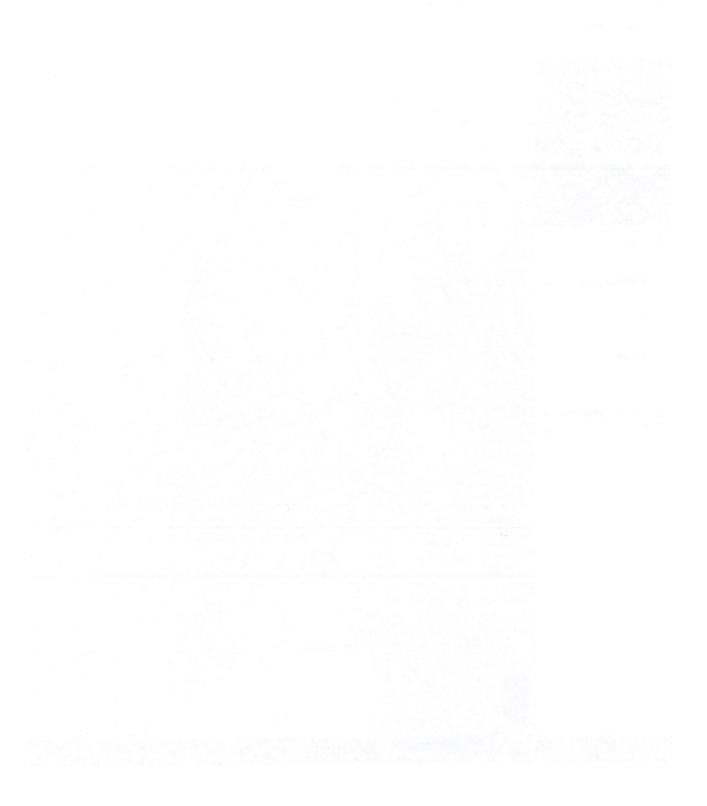
Report Date : 30/06/2017 20:41

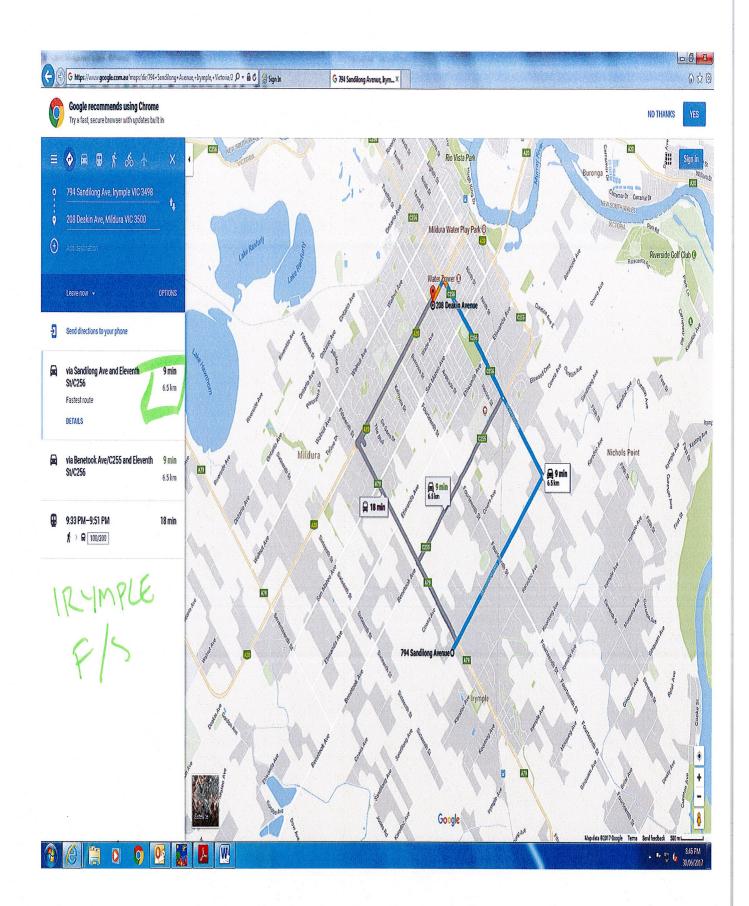
## Incident Resource Detail CFA

| District Inc No  | Incident Name | Incident Date    | Form No Total | Entry Date       | Shift Date | Shift Time    | Shift Type |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| 18 1449849       |               | 22/01/2014 01:01 | 1             | 22/01/2014 01:03 | 0000/00/00 | 00:00 - 00:00 |            |
| Resource Details |               |                  |               |                  |            |               |            |

| Category                            | Resource Type   | Resource Name          | Count Enroute    | On Scene         | Returning   | In Station       | Out of Service Location |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| CAR/FORWARD CONTROL BRIGADE VEHICLE | BRIGADE VEHICLE | MILDURA UTE            | 22/01/2014 11:38 | 22/01/2014 11:38 | 22/01/2014 11:38 22/01/2014 11:38 22/01/2014 11:38 22/01/2014 11:42 | 22/01/2014 11:42 |                         |
| HAZMAT                              | CFA HAZMAT VAN  | MILDURA HAZMAT         | 22/01/2014 01:17 | 22/01/2014 01:21 | 22/01/2014 01:17 22/01/2014 01:21 22/01/2014 06:04 22/01/2014 06:08 | 22/01/2014 06:08 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | TYPE 3          | IRYMPLE PUMPER         | 22/01/2014 06:43 | 22/01/2014 06:53 | 22/01/2014 06:43 22/01/2014 06:53 22/01/2014 09:02 22/01/2014 09:13 | 22/01/2014 09:13 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | TYPE 3          | MERBEIN PUMPER         | 22/01/2014 01:21 | 22/01/2014 01:34 | 22/01/2014 01:21 22/01/2014 01:34 22/01/2014 07:02 22/01/2014 07:53 | 22/01/2014 07:53 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | ТҮРЕ З          | RED CLIFFS PUMPER 1    | 22/01/2014 01:19 | 22/01/2014 01:41 | 22/01/2014 01:19 22/01/2014 01:41 22/01/2014 05:54 22/01/2014 05:59 | 22/01/2014 05:59 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | TYPE 4          | MILDURA HEAVY PUMPER 1 | 22/01/2014 01:03 | 22/01/2014 01:05 | 22/01/2014 01:03 22/01/2014 01:05 22/01/2014 06:01 22/01/2014 06:01 | 22/01/2014 06:01 |                         |
| TANKERS                             | 3.4C            | MILDURA HEAVY TANKER   | 22/01/2014 01:08 | 22/01/2014 01:11 | 22/01/2014 01:08 22/01/2014 01:11 22/01/2014 03:31 22/01/2014 03:34 | 22/01/2014 03:34 |                         |
|                                     |                 |                        |                  |                  |   |                  |                         |









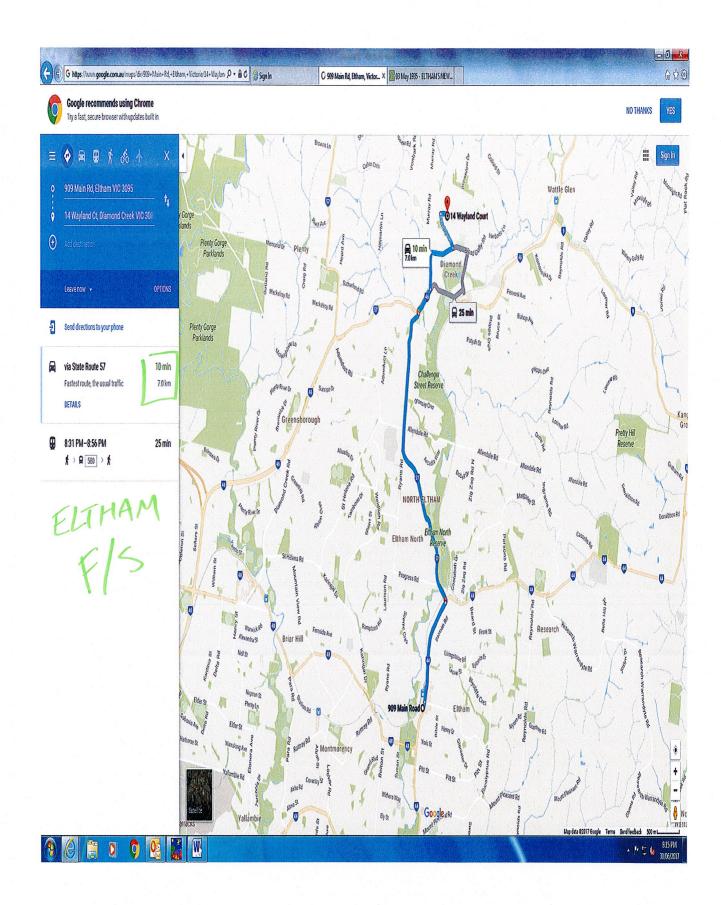
CFA

| Shift Type      |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Shift Time      | 00:00 - 00:00    |
| Shift Date      | 00/00/00         |
| Entry Date      | 11/03/2013 17:50 |
| Total           | ۲                |
| Form No Total E | ~                |
| Incident Date   | 11/03/2013 17:48 |
| Incident Name   | WAYLAND CT       |
| District Inc No | 14 1405041       |

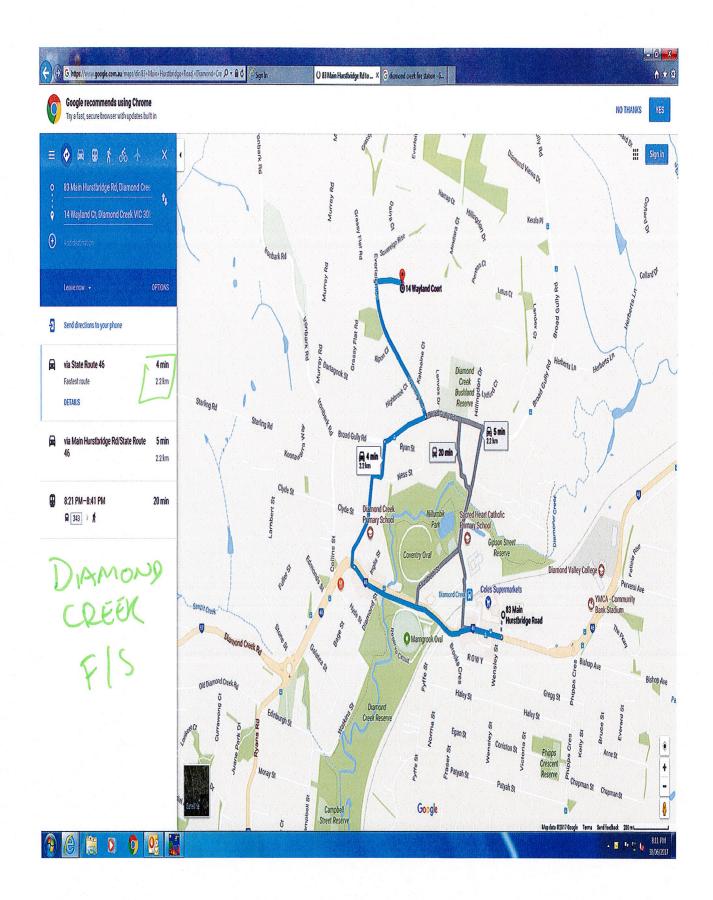
14 1405041 Resource Details

| Category                            | Resource Type   | Resource Name Co       | Count Enroute    | On Scene         | Returning   | In Station       | Out of Service Location |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| CAR/FORWARD CONTROL BRIGADE VEHICLE | BRIGADE VEHICLE | DIAMOND CREEK CAR      | 11/03/2013 17:56 | 11/03/2013 17:59 | 11/03/2013 20:26  | 11/03/2013 20:34 |                         |
| FIELD CMD VEHICLE                   | BRIGADE VEHICLE | WATTLE GLEN FCV        | 11/03/2013 18:05 | 11/03/2013 18:17 | 11/03/2013 19:47  | 11/03/2013 19:53 |                         |
| P.E. SUPPORT                        | BRIGADE         | BAYSWATER B A          | 11/03/2013 18:37 | 11/03/2013 19:08 | 11/03/2013 19:08 11/03/2013 20:16                                   | 11/03/2013 20:59 |                         |
| PUMPER TANKER                       | CFA             | PLENTY PUMPER TANKER   | 11/03/2013 17:58 | 11/03/2013 18:03 | 11/03/2013 20:04  | 11/03/2013 20:13 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | TYPE 3          | DIAMOND CREEK PUMPER 1 | 11/03/2013 17:51 | 11/03/2013 18:07 | 11/03/2013 18:07 11/03/2013 20:25                                   | 11/03/2013 20:33 |                         |
| PUMPERS                             | TYPE 4          | ELTHAM PUMPER 1        | 11/03/2013 17:50 | 11/03/2013 17:56 | 11/03/2013 17:56 11/03/2013 20:13                                   | 11/03/2013 20:13 |                         |
| TANKERS                             | 25.2            | DIAMOND CREEK TANKER 1 | 11/03/2013 17:54 | 11/03/2013 18:07 | 1/03/2013 17:54 11/03/2013 18:07 11/03/2013 20:14 11/03/2013 20:21  | 11/03/2013 20:21 |                         |
| TANKERS                             | 3.4C            | DIAMOND CREEK TANKER 2 | 11/03/2013 17:57 | 11/03/2013 17:57 | 11/03/2013 17:57 11/03/2013 20:25                                   | 11/03/2013 20:36 |                         |
| TANKERS                             | 3.4D            | PLENTY TANKER 1        | 11/03/2013 18:13 | 11/03/2013 18:41 | 11/03/2013 20:09  | 11/03/2013 20:18 |                         |
| TANKERS                             | 3.4D            | WATTLE GLEN TANKER 1   | 11/03/2013 18:01 | 11/03/2013 18:07 | 11/03/2013 18:07 11/03/2013 19:50                                   | 11/03/2013 19:59 |                         |
| MANKERS                             | 3.4D            | YARRAMBAT TANKER 2     | 11/03/2013 17:55 | 11/03/2013 18:24 | 11/03/2013 17:55 11/03/2013 18:24 11/03/2013 19:49 11/03/2013 19:56 | 11/03/2013 19:56 |                         |
| 24                                  |                 |                        |                  |                  |   |                  |                         |

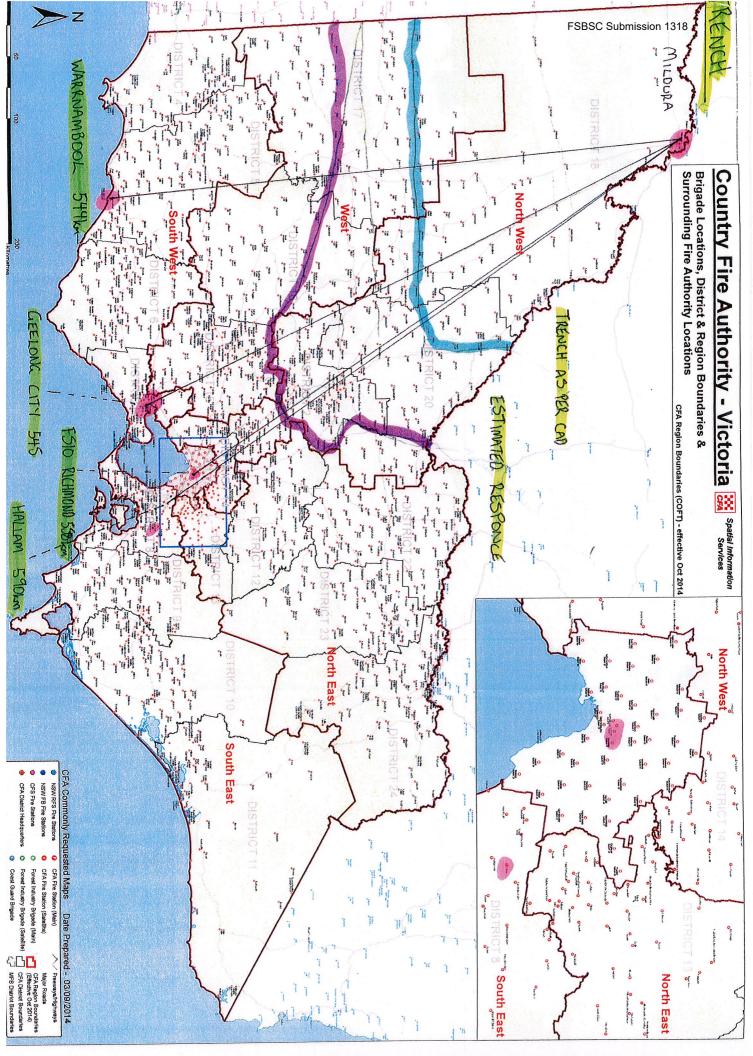
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