

Prue Purdey

From: ryan vague [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 July 2017 4:19 PM
To: LCSC; consultation@dpc.vic.gov.au
Subject: Fire service reform sumbimssion
Attachments: Greater Dandenong Leader_19-06-2017_Main_GreaterDandenong_p3.pdf

To whom it may concern,

As a career firefighter within the CFA, I see the possibility of a fire service restructure as a positive step forward for the people of Victoria. Our state is growing - we have a rising population, increased infrastructure and industry, more schools and shopping centres. With such growth comes greater demand for emergency services. Volunteers in these areas are stretched and simply cannot keep up with that demand, nor should they have to. Urban areas along with major regional centres need a guaranteed response to calls for help, which only career firefighters can provide. I am by no means downgrading the fantastic work of our volunteer firefighters. My parents live in a regional area supported entirely by CFA volunteers in Victoria's Northeast. In their town, and many others like it across the state, the CFA volunteer model is important and will continue to serve their communities. However in Melbourne's expanding suburbs, urban growth corridors and major regional centres, a more effective and efficient emergency response is vital. Only career firefighters can provide a 90 second response to fires, rescue and other emergencies - meaning they are on the way to help within 90 seconds of receiving a call. Victoria's fire service boundaries haven't changed for some 60 years. Fire service reform would modernise Victoria's fire service creating a more effective and efficient system. A restructure will provide a greater fire service for all Victorians.

I have also attached a local community newspaper article. The article further illustrates my views on the fire service reform.

Regards,

Ryan Vague