

My name is Len Rhodes. I am a Senior Firefighter with the MFB.

I have spent the best part of my whole lifetime at the MFB with 38 years' service beginning in 1979.

I would like to register my support for the proposed fire services reforms.

I believe that the formation of the new fire service Fire Rescue Victoria will bring about efficiencies in standardization of training and equipment.

History has shown that when housing density first reaches, then passes a point that would require the fast and reliable response of career firefighters in an areas such as the outer suburbs of Melbourne, the CFA has been reluctant or very slow to put career staff in place. I am confident that that would change with the proposed reforms for at least two reasons. Firstly, regular ongoing reviews of boundaries between FRV and the CFA will identify areas of growth. Once identified, modelling of response times will identify whether career staff and assets will need to be stationed close to that new area. Secondly being a career based fire service I believe there won't be a reluctance to deploy appropriate fire cover to the FRV area as it expands. With population growth in Victoria forecast to be in excess of 25% in the next fifteen years to around eight million people, and most of that growth expected to be in Melbourne and regional cities, it is only right and fair that fire service coverage keeps pace with that growth.

I support the proposed reforms of the fire services in Victoria.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to put forward this submission.

**Senior Firefighter Len Rhodes**

