



07/07/2017 03:35 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Submission to FIRE SERVICES  
REFORM SELECT COMMITTEE

Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Details: mob [REDACTED]

**Please keep my name and contact details confidential**

**Submission**

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a Metropolitan Fire Brigade firefighter for 38 years and an active volunteer surf lifesaver for 47 years. I hold the rank of Senior Station Officer and I am currently based at the Richmond Fire Station. I have previously been stationed in the Training Department, Special Operations Department and at various fire stations in Central and Southern Districts. I live in the Parkdale area, a neighbouring suburb to Mordialloc which sits on the current MFB/CFA boundary. Long established suburbs like Edithvale and Aspendale on the southern side of the Mordialloc Creek are considered 'country areas' under the current fire service boundaries. (Note; Mentone fire station, the most southerly MFB station opened in 1907<sup>(1)</sup>)

In recent years this area has already seen modernisation with the closing of Chelsea and Carrum (CFA) fire stations and the establishment of Paterson River Fire Brigade as an 'integrated station' with career and volunteer firefighters. These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised and the residents and businesses in these areas deserve a rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks which is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised area.

I have previously been stationed at the Mentone Fire Station and during that time "Mutual Aid" response was in vogue. However responses from the volunteer brigades into the Metropolitan Fire District were unreliable to the extent that an additional MFB appliance was dispatched after a number of delayed responses. Additionally, although a professional crew and appliance was available 24/7 at Mentone, it was not included in the initial response to calls into the CFA area (Southern side of Mordialloc Creek) although it is only about 4 kilometres away. Another problem encountered during that period was not knowing what level of training volunteer firefighters possessed and therefore whether I could safely use them for internal structural firefighting operations. This creates a significant risk for not only the volunteer, but also the other firefighters if they were injured or trapped inside a burning structure. I don't believe this situation has changed today.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians; including all firefighters, volunteer or professional, and to stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters due to increasing urban growth and therefore emergency calls; I ask this committee to endorse the proposed fire services reform.

Yours Sincerely!

[REDACTED]

(1) <http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au/htm/article/412.htm>