

To the Committee,

I have been a professional firefighter with the MFB for over 31 years. My first realisation to the fire service reform, happened around 20 years ago. I was doing a yearly key check at Kew Residential Services. The engineer that I was going around with pager went off. He explained that he was a volunteer for CFA Sunbury and that there was a car fire in the Main Street of Sunbury. We continued checking the keys to all of the buildings for over 30 minutes when his pager went off again for the same car fire. He explained that nobody had responded to the first call. I was totally flabbergasted that such an incident could occur in such an urban area.

I live in a house in Box Hill South that was built in 1956 on an apple orchard. That was only two years before the 1958 Act that formed the boundaries to where the professional firefighters turned out to. Since then the urban growth has been exponential and reform of the boundaries long over due.

The urban communities involved in this reform deserve a professional response turnout of under 90 seconds for all types of fires, hazardous material incidents, medical responses, road and industrial rescues.

Warm regards Brendan Tyquin District Training Officer Southern District South East Region Metropolitan Fire Brigade