



Chris White [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 10:06 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Service Review Submission

2 attachments



Fire Service Review Submission.docx 20170706_213729.jpg

This submission is in the form of a response letter to my state (Liberal) member sent 6/7/17 regarding some concerning assertions she has made in a recent newsletter (see photo attached). The Bayswater District currently has a predominantly CFA Volunteer fire service coverage. I'm not politically aligned nor do I ever write letters of this sort but the sickening use of a public safety issue for political gain is absolutely unconscionable .

Please contact me if you require any further information ,

Christopher James White



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Dear Heidi Victoria,

My name is Chris White and I am one of your constituents living in Bayswater North with my wife and my 21 month old daughter. For transparency, I will also inform you that I am a Professional Firefighter working for the MFB and a UFU member. I do this not to immediately draw lines in the sand regarding political agenda but to inform you that like many professionals of any industry, I am passionate about my work. My paradigm regarding anything to do with our Fire Services is based around the primary premise of best possible Community Safety outcomes.

My letter is regarding your recent June/ July newsletter and your assertions regarding the CFA Update. The misleading nature of this update's tone and the outright lies in the content really does your constituents a disservice. They deserve to know this issue is not a turf war with a union but a badly needed review of how we can give the best equitable fire services possible. They also deserve a representative that will look out for their best interests. Your update does none of this.

For clarity, the bill regarding Fire Rescue Victoria clearly states the volunteers will remain at integrated stations but will be managed independently to the professional service. There is no risk to their position or changes to their roles. The only difference at Boronia is there will be two logos outside the station and over time all the professional firefighters in the area will work seamlessly with exactly the same equipment and training. Isn't that better for our community?

The two critical things that I believe our professional fire services provide to their communities is an average 7.7 minute response time and our Emergency Medical Response. These quite simply save lives and I believe should be the standard across all of Melbourne's urban areas. The idea of a Fire Districts Review Panel where the same rules are applied across the state regarding fire service coverage just makes total sense. Surely my Fire Service Levy dollar should give the same response as the person in the next Suburb?

I value volunteers in our community and have great respect for our volunteer firefighters. What we ask of them in our urban environment is increasingly untenable. If this bill is passed and we have more professional firefighters protecting our urban community, our CFA volunteers will go to less urban incidents. They may decide to not volunteer anymore and will lose that aspect of serving their community.

I know that if my wife is trapped in our burning house or my daughter is critically ill, having a professional fire service can be the single difference to their survival. That is why I believe this is so important. I know in the political sphere you need to hold the party line but surely this is too important for your constituents too?

Yours sincerely,

Chris White

CFA Update

The CFA will be weakened if a bill being considered by Parliament is passed.

The Government's bill asks Parliament to

either support firefighters with cancer and th dismantling of the CFA or oppose both. We are trying to amend it to something sensible

The bill looks to turn integrated volunteer stations like Boronia into paid staff ones, leaving CFA volunteers in limbo.

The Government is also seeking to start a Fire Districts Review Panel to review the

status of CFA Stations - to do it's dirty work.

Our CFA volunteers deserve much better than this. They are wonderful. The extra

resources volunteers provide when emergencies occur saves lives.