



"WALKER, Gregory"

06/07/2017 09:27 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Submission for Inquiry Fire Services
 Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

My name is Greg Walker, and I am a Leading Firefighter with the MFB, and work at Broadmeadows Fire Station. I have been an operational Firefighter for nearly 28 years. In that time I have attended many fire calls, including Structure Fires (buildings, houses, schools, sheds etc.). Non Structure Fires (grassland/bush, rubbish, cars, etc). Emergency Medical Response. Chemical Spills etc. At Broadmeadows we also respond with CFA Greenvale and Craigieburn Career and Volunteer firefighters, in which we have a great working relationship.

I am also a resident in what is 'still' called a 'Country Town' in Sunbury. A town that has a population that has doubled to almost 40,000 people in the last 20 years. With the proposed housing development in Sunbury, it is estimated that there will be an increase of population to 95,000 people. Sunbury has both a Career and Volunteer Fire Service, but certain realities must be brought to you attention!

For example, my house backs onto a main road, and I quite often see Fire trucks respond past, but its 'always' the Career Fire Truck first, followed much later by the Volunteer truck(sometimes not at all)!!

We all know that Volunteers are a valued asset to our community, but sometimes they cannot drop what they are doing (work, shopping, taking care of their children etc.), get to the Fire Station, and respond in an acceptable time frame?? 'Time Is Critical'!!

I fear for the safety of the community and for the firefighters. As a firefighter I know the importance of having a guaranteed back up, especially Breathing Apparatus trained, and many Volunteers do not have this qualification!! Would you want an inadequate response time if you family or friends lives were in jeopardy!! Again 'TIME IS CRITICAL'!!

I would also like to add that certain Politicians and VFBV leaders have been complaining that the United Firefighters Union was after control or to interfere in the running of the Volunteers? This is a mistruth, but with Fire Service Reform, the CFA would be entirely Volunteer and the UFU would have no say in its affairs!!

Isn't that what everyone wanted???

In recent times there has been a scare campaign stating that Volunteers have to wait for 7 Career Firefighters to arrive before they can start Firefighting operations? This has been proven False!!

I have a friend in a small country town who is a Volunteer. She informs me that they respond to fires, put them out and go home. They don't have to wait for Career Firefighters to be on scene! Most country towns are not serviced by Career Firefighters anyway!!

Nothing will change for Volunteers!!

In closing, our population is growing, and so should our Career Fire Service!!!

Our job is to protect life and property!!

Community Safety is a Priority!!

Fire Service Reform is the 'ONLY' way!!

'TIME IS CRITICAL' when lives are at stake!!!

Yours sincerely

Gregory James Walker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*The MFB is committed to minimising its impact on the environment.
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

WARNING

This email and any attachment may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you are not authorised to copy or disclose all or any part of it without the prior written consent of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.
