



06/07/2017 11:16 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Services Reform

## Fire Services Reform

I would like my name and identity to be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Select Committee Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a professional CFA firefighter for nearly six years. I am currently based at Frankston Fire Station.  
I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

Over the years that I have been employed by the Country Fire Authority as a Firefighter, I have witnessed and experienced circumstances that I believe to be an inadequate response to the community as well as a danger to myself and the firefighters I work with.

**Example** – Not having enough firefighters on the fire ground to safely conduct an aggressive internal attack and primary search of a structure fire. On numerous occasions I have witnessed and experienced just 1 firefighter entering a burning house to start a fire fight and search for casualties, because there was not the support from local volunteer brigades. I do not blame those who volunteer their time to help out when they can but rather a system that depends on this response. We at Frankston Fire Brigade work not in a country area as our organisation's name suggests but rather a heavily populated urbanised area with huge life risks such as hospitals, numerous large shopping centres, nursing homes, schools and industry. In areas such as Frankston, there needs to be guaranteed support on the way to give the community the emergency service that it needs.

**Example** – At Frankston Fire brigade we have numerous specialist appliances including an aerial appliance Teleboom and a Protective Equipment Van. The PE van depends on Frankston volunteers to respond when it is required to attend fires. However when the volunteers don't turn up to respond it, we as staff members have to. By us doing this there is no longer anyone to respond the Teleboom, so it is taken off line, meaning it can no longer respond to fire calls. This in turn means there is no aerial appliance to cover the South Eastern suburbs (closest being Dandenong). Again, I do not blame the people who volunteer their time to help out when they can but rather the system in which we work to.

It highlights to me that there are shortcomings within the integrated model and that a significant change is required. Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this outdated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.

These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the

reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.

All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including me as a firefighter, I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the safety of your constituents, and all communities in our growing state. Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service along with the introduction of presumptive legislation laws to protect fire service employees. Both are needed to be endorsed and implemented by Parliament before the commencement of the fire season. This is important to me and my colleagues.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

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