



Daniel Barker [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire service reform

Please find attached submission for fire service reform.

Kind regards Dan

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Submission.docx

By email: LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au
Dear Assistant Clerk Committees

INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS' PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

I am a Leading fire fighter with the Country Fire Authority currently stationed at the Ocean Grove fire station with 14 years of service previous to that I have stationed at Melton, Sunbury and Shepparton.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

- The main reason is the protection of the community, the community should expect the best response possible and a guaranteed 7 career firefighters within 8 minutes.
- Providing guaranteed qualified crews that can provide internal and external firefighting capabilities.
- Giving the incident controller and firefighters the sound knowledge that a qualified crew will be there to provide assistance if a BA crew is trapped or needs assistance.
- Areas of Victoria are growing and the fire service needs to be able to keep up with the growth and increased population. In 1956 Geelong's population was 88000, today's population has reached 240000 and it is predicted by 2036 it will reach 320000. We need to be proactive not reactive.
- Enhanced rapid intervention to allow ambulance officer to better access patients trapped within motor vehicle accidents and Emergency medical response providing a lifesaving service to the community.

The Bellarine volunteers have requested that a second pumper from Geelong city or Belmont be dispatched to all daytime calls, with it looking to go to 24hrs within the Bellarine area as this will guarantee 7 qualified firefighters to attend incidents as many brigades fail to respond or don't have a full crew or skills mix to carry out safe firefighting activities, this is being proactive as many Volunteers do not work locally and cannot turn out.

Staff and volunteers will still provide firefighting service to Victoria it will be under a new banner. This will allow the career firefighter to come into line and standardise equipment specialist response, training and career progression within the new service whilst working with the Country fire Authority's Volunteer firefighters.

In all it will be a beneficial outcome for the state of Victoria. If it was the Ambulance service or the Police force that was enhancing its service delivery, would it receive such a negative response from small factions? I think not, so why oppose such reform of the fire service it should be welcomed, if we leave it too late it will possibly cost lives.

There has been so much negative talk and propaganda about the fire service reform, but this seems to be for only political gain. I hope that you can see the benefits for our community and increased safety to firefighters and make the right decision based on the facts and what's the best for our community.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Barker