



Scott Earl [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject



Scott Earl Firefighter
Geelong City Fire Station – 69 McKillop Street Geelong Vic 3220
[REDACTED]

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Dear Committee.docx

Dear Committee,

My name is Scott Earl I am a Leading Firefighter with the CFA. I am living in Torquay and working out of Geelong city fire station and have been employed as a career firefighter for that last 5 years, prior to that I volunteered for the C FA in Apollo bay for 15 years over that time I Have responded to over 1300 emergencies as per the FIRS report on my training records.

During this time I have obtained 16 Qualifications some of these including heavy rescue, USAR cat 2, High angle rescue. I have also been assessed in 558 different assessments.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services.

I can completely understand that difficulty that volunteers face in responding to calls and maintaining skills; I was in that position for 15 years. It is through no fault of theirs that are either delayed or cannot respond. The pressure of family life and work life is stretching and pulling them in many different ways. It is having an effect on their turnouts and training and the service they are trying to deliver. I have been in that position. This extra pressure on our volunteers is becoming more apparent. There are brigades that to their credit have put up their hand and asked for help. Geelong pumper 2 being asked to help with coverage across the Bellarine peninsular because the volunteers are having trouble responding. And similar with the South Barwon SES having trouble with responding during the week so Geelong rescue is helping with coverage also. We have also for the last 2 years assisted Lorne with coverage by sending done a pumper. These are perfect example of the growing population and the need form the reform. These brigades should be commended for recognizing their limitations and asking for help. It needs to be what's best for the growing communities not what we've done since the start of the CFA.

This reform is well overdue and I support it 100% we need to modernize the Victorian fire service into something that will work today everyone has something to gain especially the communities that we are here to help and protect.

Regards

Scott Earl

Leading Fire fighter