



"REDMAN, Ewen" [REDACTED]

06/07/2017 01:54 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject To The Assistant Clerk  
Committees.docx

1 attachment



To The Assistant Clerk Committees.docx

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To The Assistant Clerk Committees,

Dear Sir / madam

I am a full time employed firefighter with the MFB and I have been so for 28 years where I have worked in both the centre of Melbourne and on the fringes of Melbourne in the Western suburbs. I currently hold the rank of Leading Firefighter within this organisation. While I work in Melbourne I live in country Victoria in the township of Woodend.

In making this submission to you I must first make one issue clear, I am not an advocate for change for changes sake. However, if I see a need for change I will always weigh up a situation and if I agree I will strive to make all necessary improvements and changes to bring about an improvement. It is for this very reason I now submit this submission.

The fire district boundaries of the greater Melbourne area have had only minor changes over the past sixty years whereas the urban spread and population growth has been significant (Melbourne having one of the largest urban footprints per population of any city in the world). With the growth of Melbourne and modernisation of industry we are now confronted with an entirely different set of conditions and factors regarding firefighting and property protection than could ever have been imagined in the middle of last century. Vast urban centres have grown on what were once the outer parts of Melbourne with current populations in the hundreds of thousands.

In the year 2017 to expect a volunteer firefighting force to protect, train and respond in a timely manner to all calls for fire and emergency is outdated and I believe selfish of any government. We must ask why residents on one side of a street get a full time career firefighting response arriving in under 7.5 minutes and their neighbours across the street having to rely on a volunteer response of people giving of their spare time and their employers time who, no matter how dedicated can't possibly arrive in times to match those of full time staff (despite anecdotes to the contrary) As ridiculous as that scenario sounds where I work that has and sometimes still does happen.

As above mentioned I live in country Victoria where we have a dedicated committed 100% volunteer fire brigade who are able to give of their time for training and responding to emergencies and don't seem to mind doing this and the times during the day when so many are at work, many in Melbourne like myself, if the residents of Woodend have to wait a little longer for a brigade response then that's what it is. In Metropolitan Melbourne in 2017 to expect some residents to wait excessive times in times of emergency is plainly wrong, all for the sake of a full time firefighting force which is already funded through the Fire Levy (one of the fairest funding strategies ever, User Pays).

