



Vic Turello [REDACTED]
07/07/2017 12:46 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject reform Submission by Vic Turello

To the Select Committee,
Please consider this submission in your decision.
Yours Sincerely

Vic Turello
Field Technology Officer
Technology Services Dept
Country Fire Authority
Ph: [REDACTED]

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immediately from your system. To the select committee.docx

To the select committee,

My name is Vic Turello, and I am an IT Field Technician for the CFA.

I am based out of Ballarat and cover an area from Kerang to Naringal, which encompasses 7 Districts, what used to be Fiskville, and the rest of the state when needed.

In my 11 years of employment with CFA, I have attended most of the larger incidents in this state in an IT capacity.

On a daily basis, I travel between both Career and Volunteer stations, so get to see both in a different perspective than others would.

How does this reform affect me?

It allows me to service both Career and Volunteer needs as is the current situation.

What I do know, is that this organisation needs to change.

CFA as I know it has been band aid fixed since I started.

Governments of the past have been unwilling to spend money on the things this emergency service needs, simply because Volunteers are seen as free labour.

As brilliant and fantastic as Volunteers are, the issue that is plain and obvious is that the Population growth of this state is far outweighing its capacity to provide safe, consistent fire service levels.

I am not insinuating that Volunteers can no longer do their job, however, Volunteers are at breaking point with SDS turn out times, and adding to the population growth in outer metro suburbs and regional centres with the same level of Volunteer numbers will only add to the problem.

I see this happening on a daily basis, with poor turnout times or even no shows.

I have personally sat with the OM of District 07 Mick McGuinness who showed me a map of Geelong and its current response management. To say I was alarmed is an understatement. From what I was shown, the Geelong area will be gaining another 60000 residents in the next 10 years due to the growth corridors increasing dramatically! At this stage, 85% of all urban calls are attended by Career Firefighters, yet as the OM explained, the current system is at breaking point. The answer is to increase staffing capacity to meet these requirements. At any one time, many call outs could and have occurred, with Volunteers stepping up which leaves their areas at risk. This has happened time and time again, without change due to the current CFA Act stating that recruit numbers MUST be consulted with VFBV. Why?

Our career firefighter's lives are being put at risk by fear mongering, simply to retain volunteers, through negative media and VFBV scare tactics. A hell of a lot of volunteers supports these reforms, and would benefit greatly from them.

The above scenario's and population growths are happening in all the districts I work in, and every single OM has said exactly the same thing.

The current system is about to break, and outer urban and rural centres need a more reliable and consistent service.

We now have an opportunity to change some of these band aid fixes with your help!

This Government has finally said enough is enough and has seen through the politically motivated hatred towards Career staff, those that serve their community!

Volunteers will still be able to volunteer.

Rural volunteers will not be affected in the slightest.

Urban volunteers will only be strengthened by the Governments new reforms with additional staff to assist in emergency service.

Please consider these reforms as a positive step to improving our firefighting and emergency services.

It is not a takeover as some would have you believe, but a step in the right direction for our future.

Yours Sincerely

Vic Turello

CFA IT Field technician

