



07/07/2017 01:54 AM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
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Subject Submission- confidential

## Confidential Submission

My name is [REDACTED]. I have been a CFA Volunteer for 12 years and a professional fire-fighter for 5 years. I have been a volunteer at Hamilton and Doreen and stationed as a permit fire-fighter at Wodonga and Eltham. I currently hold the rank of Leading Fire-Fighter

I would like to think I have seen things from both sides of the fence. I believe that volunteers provide a great service to the community and have the skills to provide the service required when available. I also know availability of crews can be very hard to grantee a response in an effective and timely manner. As the cost of living goes up, people living and working in different locations, employers less willing to let workers leave and family commitments makes it harder and harder to get trained volunteers out the door in a timely manner. I also believe the type of service provided to the community should be decided on risk. Whether that be number of residents, dollar value or risk based, but it needs to be independent.

Fire service reform needs to take place and needs to take place now. Residents living in MFB area are getting a lot more protection than those in the country area. When people ask me what I do for a living and I tell them, they say "isn't Eltham MFB". Clearly the general public see Eltham as a part of the metro area but the current fire services boundary's don't. It worries be that I could go to a fire in Research and be expected to work with the 3 other guys on my shift to enter a burning house and have no one coming to back me up should something happen to me. We know the risks involved and have put up with it for too long. A change is needed. Why should I be any different to a MFB fire-fighter? Why is my life less important? Why is the life of a resident inside that house trapped less important?

I believe with all the hype around the fire services in the media over the last few years has had a detrimental effect on the CFA. I was a strong believer in integration and would like it to still work but there has been so much damage done. Brigades that will not be effected by this reform have killed integration. Those brigades have made it so toxic in CFA. They refuse to see how a better service delivery provided by staff will help the community. They only see the service they can provide when they have members available as something that can be delivered round the clock. I hold nothing against people having other commitments, but it shows with trucks failing to respond that it is an issue. A better service for the public surely can't be bad. We can't go back to the way things were as much as it would be good. Something needs to change and this is the change needed.

Regards,



Protecting lives and property



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