



John Adcock [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 01:55 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire services

Select committee,

My name is John Adcock and I have been a professional MFB firefighter for 4 years. I am currently based at Newport fire station.

I write to express my support for the proposed fire services reform.

I understand there are certain risks involved in my profession. Studies have shown that as a professional firefighter, I have a high risk of developing cancer from the exposure to toxic carcinogens that I have already encountered, and will undoubtedly continue to be exposed to throughout my career. This proposed reform will not only provide me with some piece of mind through presumptive legislation should I develop cancer, but more importantly, I believe it will assist with reducing the risk of developing cancer as a rapid 8 minute response with a minimum of 7 firefighters will reduce my potential exposure. It means that small fires don't become big fires as they will be more quickly contained and suppressed, which then reduces the exposures to possible carcinogenic toxins. As well, proficiently trained firefighters on the fire ground in a timely manner will enable implementation of appropriate decontamination procedures to further reduce exposure to high toxin levels.

Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are now wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised. The volunteer firefighters do a fantastic job, but they cannot and should not be expected to be able to provide the same response times and deal with the growing number of call outs in these urbanised areas. The rapid population growth in areas of outer metropolitan Melbourne and Victorian regional cities requires a modern urban firefighting agency and deserves the same response as those suburbs currently residing in the MFD.

This reform still gives the CFA its original purpose as intended, an independent volunteer organization for fire and rescue response in the true country areas. There is absolutely nothing in the reform to suggest volunteers must leave the CFA and it also provides the CFA with a large funding boost to improve facilities, training, retention, etc.

Importantly it allows all of Victoria's professional firefighters to become even better aligned to work together and provide a better response to the Victorian public, particularly in the predicted future high growth areas and many urban areas that have already outgrown the original and out-dated fire service boundaries.

For my colleagues and I to efficiently, effectively and safely do our job, this reform is badly needed. The results will be better for the Victorian community and better for firefighters.

I recently became a father and it's very important to me as well as my family that I am able to come home safely after each shift.

To ensure the safety of all Victorians - including myself - I ask you to please seriously consider your support for the proposed fire services reform and presumptive legislation.

Sincerely,

John Adcock

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