



"LAWRY, John" [REDACTED]

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Fire service reform committee sub
 mission

My name is John Lawry and I have been a professional fire fighter with the MFB for 27 years.

Fire Rescue Victoria is the best solution for the Victorian Fire Services conflicting standards and procedures.

I have been stationed at Taylors Lakes Fire station, located on the CFA/MFB boundary line for 7 years, and have firsthand knowledge of the problems this can create.

Some of these issues include:

- When turning out into the CFA area 2 kilometres up the road into Hillside and Caroline springs we are faced with communication issues because CFA crews are using different radios.
- Fire ground issues where we don't know who or how many fire-fighters will turn up at any time of day.
- Command issues where confusion can occur between Officers and volunteer captains who have different understandings of incident control procedures and their boundaries.
- Fire fighting hose coupling incompatibility between the CFA/MFB areas.
- Volunteer fire-fighters placing themselves at risk on scene at house fires because they are not able to enter burning buildings without breathing apparatus and its associated training.

Why should these issues be happening in metropolitan Melbourne ?

Why would you have a ridiculous MFB/CFA boundary line through the middle of Melbourne's suburbs that have not changed significantly in 60 years.

35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Including Hillside Caroline Springs, Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia and Geelong.

With this out-dated system, 60% of Melbourne's growing suburbs receive a hit and miss fire fighting response.

The fire service restructure is a chance to standardise the fire response to the majority of the Victorian population in urban areas.

When you call 000 you get 7 career fire fighters dispatched at the same time on two trucks to every fire call in the metropolitan suburbs.

Who wouldn't want fire-fighters out the door in 90 seconds, on scene in about 9 minutes; 90 % of the time when their house is on fire or they are trapped in a car accident ?

(MFB attended 38,000 calls for assistance last year)

Benefits include:

- Emergency medical response to priority 1 calls delivered to all of the FRV fire stations meaning a fast turnout to heart attacks and other medical

emergencies.

(MFB attended nearly 4000 EMR calls last year saving many lives).

- Cost savings to the Victorian community by streamlining MFB/CFA payroll HR and media departments.
- Negotiate one enterprise bargaining agreement for all career staff instead of two.
- Fire rescue Victoria can streamline its specialist rescue departments and equipment to be dispatched all over Victoria.
 - Better strategic location of all FRV fire stations in the greater Melbourne area for faster turnout times as opposed to current locations.
 - Standardised fire rescue equipment and training across FRV career fire trucks and stations.
 - CFA and VFBV can return its focus and its resources on its volunteer brigades instead of fighting against CFA career staff terms and conditions of employment.

I respectfully ask that you also give consideration to the many reviews of the Fire Services since the Black Saturday royal commission, particularly the Wye River Fire review.

I believe the Wye River review, highlights a lack of coordinated CFA career/volunteer resources in the lead up to Christmas Day firestorm.

The management of these larger fires would be best served by FRV incident controllers with coordinated Career strike teams to protect major life risks and assets backed up by local CFA volunteer crews.

Fire Rescue Victoria will have a larger pool of fire-fighters (2800) to form these strike teams.

The CFA should not be considered a sacred cow that cannot be touched, due to the scare mongering of some rural CFA brigades and some politicians.

The facts are the 1220 CFA stations would continue to operate as they do now, and 2800 career fire-fighters will come together to deliver a better coordinated fire service to the majority of Victorians.

Please consider my request to pass this Fire Service overhaul along with the introduction of presumptive cancer legislation laws, it's your opportunity to help protect fire fighters, and make Victoria a safer place to live.

Kind regards

Lff John Lawry Reg. 4549

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