



Larry Bytel [REDACTED]  
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Supporting Fire Service Reform

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Larry Byte, I live at [REDACTED]. I have been a firefighter for 31 years and have a rank of leading firefighter and currently stationed at No 52 stn Tullamarine. I live and work in a highly urban residential area and I believe it is critical we support the fire service reform as we need a modern urban fire service. With the rapid growth of Greenvale, Mickleham and Craigieburn which are the next suburbs away from Tullamarine the fire service need to service these areas.

In our area we have Tullamarine Airport where we assist Aviation Rescue and Firefighting Service. We also have Essendon Airport where we are primary responders. Other risks in our area are Tullamarine Freeway, Western Ring Road and Calder Highway, multiple nursing homes, primary and secondary schools, many factories in industrial areas and major shopping centres.

Having MFB and CFA still has many operational issues such as different radios for communication, different hose couplings and pampers, not to mention different procedures that all make interoperability more difficult. Fire services reform will alleviate all of these issues and allow MFB professional firefighters to work with CFA professional firefighters under the one banner and with CFA volunteers to create healthy and trusting relationships that will have preservation of life and property as it's unified goal. One fire service would also provide greater cohesion between all firefighters and drastically improve fireground safety.

This dispute has seen the morale, confidence and faith in firefighters at an all time low. The lowest I have seen in my 31 years in the service

I can see by supporting one fire service that all Victorians will be better protected and the well being and safety of firefighters better off

Regards LFF Larry Bytel.