



"G & L Marks" [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 04:59 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Fire Service Bill

1 attachment



Linda Marks submission.pdf

Please find enclosed my submission for Fire Service Bill.

Please note this has NOT been sent to LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au , as per instructions received by text today.

I take it you'll be sending this on my behalf.

Thank you,

Regards,

Linda Marks



Email sent using Optus Webmail

Linda Marks


Monday, 3 July 2017

Assistant Clerk Committees
Department of the Legislative Council
Fire Services Bill Select Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Fire Services Bill Select Committee Members,

Re: Fire Service Bill

As a wife of a MFB Leading Firefighter who has been in the fire service for 38 years, I wish to advise my family and I are very supportive of the fire services reforms. It will be reassuring to know that my husband is in good hands and that there will be sufficient suitably resourced staff and firetrucks to assist him to protect lives and properties in all emergency calls.

I recently learnt of an incident where my husband's life was at risk when he responded to a house fire call in CFA area Caroline Springs as both their integrated brigade trucks were at another call. His truck was supported by the closest volunteer brigade available some distance away, but because they had no BA (Breathing Apparatus) could only support them by fighting the fire from the footpath. My husband and his partner were the only ones suitably equipped with BA (30 minute duration), which they donned twice to look for life inside the burning house, everyone got out safely. It was a large fire, eventually joined by another MFB truck and later by the two integrated trucks. The closest two volunteer brigades around that area are Taylors Hill and Rockbank, who through no fault of their own struggle with manning.

From the 2016 Census data released June 27^h, 2017 over 1,800 people settle in Melbourne every week and Victoria's population has grown by over 100,000 for the last three years.

- Fire Rescue Victoria will modernised our fire emergency services from the 1960's Melbourne model for the benefit of Victoria and its ever broadening urbanisation, monitoring changing environments to tailor resources and support to meet growing community needs.

Bringing together career MFB and CFA firefighters provides better protection with unified training equipment and safe work practices and an EBA specialised for one organisation.

- Country Fire Authority structure is already in place and can continue specialising in volunteer services. Their focus can be placed back to improving those services by maintaining the needs of communities, the needs and safety of their volunteers with training and promoting volunteer services to engage (in some areas desperately needed) new recruits.

- Victorian's contribute to the fire services through the Fire Levy paid on their properties rates. As areas become more urbanised more income is generated. I believe income too is generated by (industrial) businesses whom firefighters visit for false alarms, currently paid to MFB towards costs incurred.

This EBA renewal for career firefighters was due in 2013 and has been going now for four years. The last two years in particular we have seen our firefighters being treated as political footballs vilified by media and politicians. Each and every attack has been felt not only by them but also their loved ones. The effects around the industry have been wide spread, low morale, heightened problems of PTSD, anxiety and depression. Not deserving treatment of the dedicated people whose perils of the job we can only imagine, risking their own lives for the sake of others. They deserve to be treated with honour and respect.

This reform is the solution to repair our damaged fire services. With no conflicting interests, separate entities specialising in their own areas of expertise with duly trained personnel serving the communities of the State of Victoria.

I encourage the Select Committee members to endorse the fire services reforms.

Thank you for your time reading my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Marks