



"GAZZARD, Matthew"

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To "LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au"
 <LCSC@parliament.vic.gov.au>
 cc Consultation/DTF@DTF
 bcc
 Subject Submission to the Parliamentary
 Enquiry

To whom it may concern,

My name is Qualified Fire Fighter Matthew Gazzard, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne.

I write to you in an attempt to have the CFA bill, currently to be voted upon, go through the State Parliament.

I feel this is an essential bill for the safety and future service delivery for all Victorians.

I will keep this brief as I know there will be many to read!

I feel that this reform is essential for a growing community in Victoria and anyone passionate about Community Safety and Service Delivery could not deny this.

It will galvanise the relationships between agencies going forward. It will give all parties what they desire and most importantly the community will win with MUCH improved service delivery.

The last few years have been trying, and relationships built up, have been torn down by a few parties who's interests lay not with community safety of Victorians but allegiances to political parties and a childish turf war.

Further, a Federal Government intervention into a Fair Work decision has made the current industrial environment untenable, with Workers and Employees unable to ever reach agreement without 3rd party interference.

There needs to be a panel to discuss and move boundaries BASED UPON COMMUNITY NEED. Not based upon who's turf you step upon!

There needs to be a population trigger that decides what areas get full time Fire Stations, as with Ambulance and Police Services.

There needs to be a productive working relationship between agencies which there is currently a mutual feeling of anger and mis-trust.

Currently it is a rabbit warren of zones, areas, skills sets and "Turn-out" times. The public do not know who will turn up, when, nor the skills they bring with them.

As all Victorians are now paying the Fire Services Levy, City or Country, we all deserve better. Currently I have no idea if a truck will be despatched to a fire or incident near/at my house as the poor

Volunteers have to work full time jobs. This impacts "Turn-Out" times greatly and importantly Volunteer safety as they never know who or how many will turn up .

The Volunteers also need minimum numbers on the Fire Ground to safely attack a fire .

I pay the Fire Services Levy as well and I want what I'm paying for too !

The Presumptive Legislation needs no introduction as it has universal support so I won't go into that , other than to say Fire Fighters Professional and Volunteer need this ESSENTIAL protection immediately !

On a final note, I would like to ask you something:

If you had the opportunity to build a modern fire service for today, with current population growth figures in mind. Would you build two services with odd boundaries of where they can and can't go . With different skills sets and double up on Admin staff, Leadership Structures, different equipment, policies, Corporates, Maintenance and Workshops?

Or would you build one streamlined service for urban populations which eliminates the duplication of Corporate/admin roles, eliminates boundaries to provide the BEST possible service delivery to communities, standardises skills sets and equipment for swift Fire Ground work to save lives and property? The one service set up to best protect Victorians in an urban environment.

The VFBV has been in-directly calling for Volunteer autonomy all throughout this dispute and now, when presented with the opportunity to have this autonomy they are now backing away . This should be considered carefully.

Why have they done this? What is the motive? The motive, I can tell you is political.

It is neither about the interests of their members nor about the safety of the communities they serve .

The time for politics is over . The time for a propoganda war is gone.

The time for clear thinking is now. The time to reform the Fire Services to bring them into line with community expectations is now.

The time to put down the weapons and find **THE BEST SOLUTION** OF THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY IS NOW!

I implore you. Please. Look at the facts. Look past the politics. Look at the big picture and above all else try to find the best outcome for the people I proudly serve . Victorians.

Kind Regards
QFF Matthew Gazzard

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