



"GOODWIN, Michael"

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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Proposed Fire Service Reform

To the Honourable Ministers and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in response of the proposed upcoming Fire Service Reform not only as a Melbourne Metro District Firefighter but as a concerned community citizen who lives in a Non metro fire district. Firstly I love my job! Even the unfortunate events I sometimes attend. Our response times of 2 appliances and 7 career staff at any alarm of fire including being on scene within 7 minutes of turning out, increase the ability to contain a fire which is threatening property as well as the survivability of community members who require EMR assistance. However it concerns me greatly that some of my own family members are not covered by the same guaranteed response times as those Victorians who live within the Metro Fire District, simply because they live in areas such as (Boronia, Mooroolbark, Gisborne, Ferntree Gully, Lilydale and Bayswater) where the Fire boundaries have not been updated for decades!

Put simply THATS IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNSAFE! People who own property that's not within the Metro Fire district still pay the same Fire Levy as those that do so therefore should be given the same professional response for any emergency or call for assistance.

This is also NOT a sledge towards any volunteer brigades in those areas. They are highly regarded in all communities and will CONTINUE to serve those communities as they always have done only hopefully now with more Full time career staff who will also be turned out to these areas within the same timeframes as the Metro Fire district. This will mean a guarantee of Professional Fire crews attending instead of the delayed response times and 'non-available turnouts' which I have unfortunately experienced whilst working in Fire Stations (Ringwood, Croydon, Templestowe) along Melbourne's out-dated and politically targeted Fire boundaries. To think that this reform is vindictive towards volunteers or in some way excludes them from continuing to volunteer, is shameful and plain WRONG, But more importantly it is hiding the underlying facts that response times to the community are VITAL when attending emergencies! Anyone who disagrees or has doubts about the proposed Fire service reform is putting PEOPLES LIVES IN DANGER! And that is a fact which needs to be heeded and fixed! I'm sure that all of you are aware that the population of Melbourne has increased dramatically within the last 20 years! There are more cars on the roads each year and more high rise apartments and urbanised areas being built every day, not to mention the schools, hospitals, workplaces and shopping centres which are always under upgrades and construction to keep up with community needs. Fire safety is NO EXCEPTION! It needs to be brought forward into this century and give all communities in highly urbanised areas the same response, skills and turnout times that people living within the Metro Fire District receive 24hrs a day every day of the year. The solution is and has always been to increase community safety by being able to offer professional and prompt emergency response. It is bigger than any political gain which can be sought from destructive criticism and prolonging the Reform from taking effect. It is about peoples lives at the end of the day, and LIVES ARE ALL THAT EVER MATTER!

I support the proposed Fire Service Reform and implore you to do the same. LETS GET THIS DONE!

Yours truthfully,

Michael Goodwin

Reg. 11007



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