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To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire services Reform

To whom it may concern.

I have been an operational firefighter with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade for over 31 years.

I see the Fire services Reform Bill has a once generation opportunity to enact real common sense changes that will benefit the community in terms of fire coverage.

It is a once in a generation chance because the Liberal and National Partys have since the introduction of the federal CFA EBA legislation last year demonstrated their willingness to put politics ahead of the communities best interest.

The coalition's game plan is not to resolve the "CFA dispute" or contribute to a modernising of Victoria's fire services by support the Reform Bill, but to prolong the angst, anger and misconceptions that they have help create, until at least the next State Election.

They are too embedded with the Vounteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV)- an organisation who appears more intent on 'empire building' than in proving realistic and meaningful comment regarding the Bill, and are content for the upheaval to continue.

The most important point with regard to fire service coverage in Victoria is the best interests of the community, not what's best for the Liberal Party or VFBV.

No one doubts the importance of vounteer firefighters especially in remote country areas, but the reality is that the vounteers cannot guarantee a turnout response.

This is a particularly concern on the 'urban fridges' where career fire fighters and the public safety can be put at risk because the lack of numbers on the fireground.

The modernisation of fire services and the associated mechanisms within the proposed Bill will help reassess coverage requirements (eg volunteers replaced by career responses because of the increased population or special risks).

This aspect is imperative as the population of Melbourne and Victoria grows dramatically.

The presumption illness component of the Bill is OVERDUE.

I read weekly via work emails of another firefighter serious ill or fighting terminal cancer.

I ask the select committee and all members of state parliament when considering the Bill to cast politics aside and PUT FIRST THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT THE MOST- THE COMMUNITY.

Paul Jurkovsky  
Acting Station Officer  
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency services Board.

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