



"EAST, Rod" [REDACTED]
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc UFU OFFICE
<ufuvic@ufuvic.asn.au>, "Rod
(rgeast@bigpond.com)"
bcc
Subject Fire Services bill

To Whom it may concern

My name is Rod Graeme East and I live at 7 Nautilus Court, Patterson Lakes 3197. I am a Station Officer with the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board. I have been with the fire service for 30 years. I am currently the Senior officer at the Nunawading Fire station but normally hold a Senior position in the Fire Investigation and Analysis unit. A position I have held for over 17 years. During my career I have studied for and been awarded the Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Fire Investigation.

Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Fire Technology and Management

Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Forensic Science

Diploma In Frontline Management

I have been trained in numerous cross agency skills and management courses by the CFA, Victoria Police and DWELP in various fields such as surveillance, drugs, wildfire, wildfire management, Forensics, photography, evidence etc.

I have been trained and hold positions in Occupational Health and safety, Equal Opportunity, Peer support

I have been an active instructor on courses involving the CFA(both permanent and volunteer), Victoria Police, Army, Navy, Worksafe and Energysafe Electrical and Gas

I have presented on the television and in courts on subjects such as fire safety, fire investigation, Coroners presentations such as powerboards, electrical fire safety, the insulation bill passed by Government and numerous Kids programmes.

I wish to make a submission to the select committee 2017 regarding the Fire Services Reform Bill as I feel very strongly in its favour. It is my belief that the community in general would be far better served by one fully professional service supported by a volunteer service should the need arise. The cost savings alone by not duplicating services would be substantial. The purchasing power of a larger integer the spread of one professional service would encompass the ever increasing greater Melbourne but can be extended to those rural communities which have substantial growth, population and infrastructure. The use of one diverse service fully trained fire service supplemented by a volunteer arm is the worldwide preferred method of protecting the community and combatting emergency situations.

It is not a feasible nor realistic situation to have some members of the community protected by a service which responds in under 90 seconds out the door and in over 90% of the time is in fire fighting mode in seven minutes or less. This quick response relates to over 95% of the incidents being contained to the room of origin. This not only translates to safety for the community but relates to less fire damage, less cost and less down time for the family and the extended family. The quick response has been reflected in our EMR (EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE) capabilities. Ambulance Victoria has just released statistics which indicate that Melbourne is the second safest city. Second only to Seattle (which I might add has a permanent professional fire

service with the outer hinterland supported volunteers) in the world due to our early intervention in cardiac arrests. All our staff are EMR trained and the community is served greatly by a 90 sec response and a very fast on scene and working time. Ambulance Victoria acknowledge our skills and our preparedness to train and maintain a high degree of completeness. This medical response cannot be offered by a fire service where the response time cannot be guaranteed.

One fully professional service supported a volunteer group will see better cohesion, greater resource strategies, cost saving, reduction in waste, better staff utilisation, wider expansion of 24/7 response times and a huge reduction state wide of on scene times. The road rescue elements will be better staffed and can extended further and be responded and arrive quicker due to quicker despatch.

The water ways, rivers and bays of the state are currently protected and serviced by two fire services with vast differences in capabilities, this will be better utilised when we have one fully functioning service with similar philosophies. The equipment and skills can be spread further and will up skill more responders.

Black Saturday saw the darkest day for our state and the two fire services supported by DWELP attempted to quell the most impossible fire this state has seen. The call from one fire service to another led to delays, nerveless the response was swift, co-ordination could have been more seamless. The fire investigation process was fully supplemented by the MFB as the CFA HAS NO PERMANENT FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT. It was 3 days following that 5 elderly fire investigators were offered to the state coroner, whilst the MFB had 10 fully trained and mobile within hours. The Police, Corner, State Utilities would prefer to deal with one professional fire service for a multitude of reasons, security, coherence, availability, cross training, shared Intel, compliance of equipment and the reasons continues.

I truly would relish the one fire service policy and my family and neighbours agree that the current situation cannot continue for public safety. The one fire service would reduce costs, promote safety, improve quicker response, improve training and collaboration, widen the expansion of a 24/7 service. T would like an end to this totally un- tenable standoff. I request an end to the total bagging on my colleagues and myself and fully support the Fire services bill.

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