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06/07/2017 05:29 PM

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

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Rowan Green and I am Leading Fire Fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I have served in the fire service for approximately 8 1/2 years. For most of that time it has been a great privilege and honour to help serve the community. Although unfortunately over the last few years, with all the negative press and political infighting, doing my job has become more stressful. The constant unfounded attacks on myself and fellow fire fighters and on top of that, the community scared into thinking they are not being provided with a service they deserve, have all had an effect on my mental health.

I see the Fire Service Reform as a light at the end of the tunnel for everyone to move forward.

We all know that Metropolitan Melbourne is rapidly expanding with 4 out of 5 of the fastest growing suburbs in Australia on Melbourne's fringe. This means more traffic, more factories, more homes and more people living in an area that 50 years ago, were once paddocks or grasslands when our existing fire boundaries were put in place. It is now time to modernise our Fire service.

As a professional Fire Fighter, I have nothing but respect for the thousands of volunteer Fire Fighters that serve their community every day. But the ability for them to respond on Melbourne's fringe is now getting harder and harder. Time is critical in an emergency and every second counts.

For volunteers to respond means, first being available to accept the call, 2nd negotiate the traffic to get to the station and 3rd turning out in the firetruck once enough numbers arrive at the station, if they turn up at all. This is all added time that is so important for us as Fire Fighters to have a positive outcome once on the scene of an emergency.

All Melbourne communities deserve the same fire coverage and response in their time of need.

I believe the Fire Service Reform will certainly help achieve this, communities will be safer regardless of their location on an urban map.

I would like to reiterate I have nothing but respect for the work and efforts the volunteers do in their community. I have fought fires with them side by side in both Wallen and Kilmore. Victoria's Fire services will always come together when the community needs us no matter what boundaries there are.

I hope you understand the importance of this reform in moving forward and providing Melbourne and its growing communities with the modern fire service it deserves.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards

LFF Rowan Green

Templestowe Fire Station #30
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