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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Support for reform

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:

The CFA needs to be updated and brought into the 21st century. Having the boundaries as they are currently suggest that areas such as Dandenong, Pakenham, and Frankston are still 'country' municipalities when in actual fact, they are and continue to be the urban growth areas that have become highly residential thus require guaranteed 8minute response times and protection by professional firefighters .

I have no issue with the volunteers brigades supporting and training with the professional stations, as they do an incredible job when they can respond . It must be noted and reminded that they are exactly as the name suggests VOLUNTEERS , and thus it is both unfair and unrealistic to place so much expectation upon them when they have their own lives , jobs, and families to attend to .


And of course it is well known that the surge capacity or volunteer turnout will NOT be affected by this reform, in fact I believe the reform will assist in re-establishing the rapport and mutual respect of the job. The reform will assist with standardisation of career training /specialist response/response standards and equipment including support and training of the volunteer sector.

I am unable to answer to friends and relatives who live in the Langwarrin area who pay the same fire service levy and rates as those in the Frankston area , both are part of the same city council, as to why Langwarrin is serviced by volunteers and Frankston is serviced by professional firefighters. Fro example, if a residence catches fire or an EMR incident occurs in Langwarrin - the volunteer brigade responds, (in the time it takes them to get from their homes, turn out gear, correct number of people, then to the incident)...whereas if the same incidents occur within Frankston, they have a guaranteed arrival within 8minutes to the scene for assistance by professional fully trained firefighters .

Recently I had an experience at Springvale Fire Station and we had a call to a structure fire , multiple calls etc...upon arrival, the officer consulted with the MFB upon which a plan was quickly formulated and the fire was knocked down . While this is no big deal as it is within the job description of protect life and property , I found it amazing and disappointing that the members of the volunteer brigade were wearing wildfire gear and had beards . Clearly they were not going to be helpful within the fire attack due to not meeting the standards for turn out PPE or have the ability to wear breathing apparatus also not meeting the requirements . These requirements are a basic safety issues .

Bringing the CFA into one professional fire service , and initiating this reform is vital for the people of Victoria to feel safe and be guaranteed security and protection , consistently and to the same high standards across the state .

Yours sincerely,
Samantha Grant



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