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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject submission to the Fire Services Reform

1 attachment



Fire service reform.docx

Fire service reform

I Steven Tanner have worked for the Melbourne Fire brigade for over thirty years.

Through my time as a Fire fighter I have responded to so many emergencies that I'm unable to count, during my career I have responded into areas, where they have been covered by volunteers or under staffed stations, in which resulted with our crew dealing with situations that were undermanned and putting our lives in danger at these times.

I live in an area that is protected by CFA. I pay in my rates a fire levy, in which should be delivering, to me the same fire service as someone that pays the same in the city.

So I'm entitled to a permanent staffed station, as the person that lives in the city.

The idea of a volunteer was setup to cover a rural property that was large and hard to cover, since then the population's and density has grown in most of these areas, so does the demand for full time positions of emergency workers to protect us.

I ask you what is your fire levy paying for -- a service that provides 24/7 emergency medical response, fire cover and emergencies **or** a service that cannot guarantee that a person that turns out to an emergency is qualified in Emergency Medical Response , Breathing apparatus qualified so they can enter the fire to rescue you ?

The services need reform to give this state the best cover and protection it needs.

Victoria has some of the best firefighters in the world, but they currently operate under systems and structures that have not changed since the 1950s.

In just the last decade, eight reviews have been undertaken into Victoria's fire services, including the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. They have made it clear that the state's services are in need of modernisation.

The new Fire Rescue Victoria will be established to fight fires in major regional cities and Melbourne, bringing together the MFB and career staff from the state's 35 integrated CFA stations.

Fire Rescue Victoria will be based on other successful police and emergency services organisations, including the model in New South Wales, and be led by its own Commissioner.

- **impact on fire service delivery across Victoria**

The impact to the fire service will be better off with a permanent full time staff through Victoria in which will be able to have a larger serge capacity to assist the rural brigades, also the community will be protected better with an Emergency Medical Response, guaranteed permanent staff to attend to protect the community where population density has increased.

- **effect on volunteer engagement and participation in fire service delivery**

there will be no effect on Volunteer's as they are still able to turn out if they wish as a second or third appliance in co – location stations, in rural areas they should be glad to know that they have backup from staff stations. It is the community that is at stake, their safety is of the highest importance, that's who we serve and protect.

- **short term and long term cost impact on fire service provision**

Short term cost = there is none, as the Fire levy should be paying for service,

The long term cost = would be an additional costing for uniforms and equipment needed to align services, in which should be in states budgets each year for replacements cost for upgrading.

Kind regards

Steven Tanner. 26/06/2017