

**"MANGAN, Terrence"**

06/07/2017 05:21 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject submission

Dear Committee members,

My name is Terry Mangan , I am a 52 year old Leading Fire Fighter and have worked for the MFB for 17 years .

I live in Kyneton and am currently stationed at Taylors Lakes FS-48

I am writing to you today in the support for proposed fire service reform. My reasons are that as a firefighter it is important to me that we have 7 firefighters despatched within 8 minutes to a call , not just for the safety of us firefighters but for the safety of the general public as well. If we know we have 7 firefighters despatched then we are confident in getting to work straight away to be able to send 2 firefighters in in BA straight away and know that we will have a further 2 firefighters in BA to back them up. This is a much better outcome for the firefighting crews and the general public who we have been despatched to assist. Having worked a lot of my time at fringe stations, Taylors Lakes and Deer Park, I have seen the western fringe of the Metropolitan fire district expand hugely going from paddocks we used to fight grass fires on to dense housing estates that are growing overnight. For those reasons I feel it is only reasonable that these dense housing areas have coverage from professionally trained firefighters who are stationed in these areas for a rapid response.

I also don't feel that the reform around these 35 integrated stations which are now much more urbanised will have an adverse effect on the volunteer firefighters or the state's ability to respond to bushfire. By bringing the Career staff under the one umbrella can only be a good thing and give a better outcome through standardisation of Training , equipment and operational procedures.

May I also say that the way that the dispute has been able to drag out for such an extended time with a huge amount of misinformation been allowed to fill the papers in an attempt to discredit career firefighters is an absolute disgrace. Prior to all this the career firefighters and volunteers worked beside each other just fine with no animosity. But sadly this whole thing was turned into a political football at the expense only of career firefighters and their families. Surely by what we have just witnessed with the Grenfell Tower fire that people who have the power to make change can see that by cutting corners and costs does not always give a good outcome.

I only ask that when you are considering your vote for the Fire Services Reform that you please consider that by bringing these 35 integrated station response areas under the one umbrella covered by professional firefighters will give a better outcome.

Yours sincerely,  
Terry Mangan

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