



Tim Milsome [REDACTED]
06/07/2017 10:04 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

My name is Tim Milsome and I have been a firefighter for the Country Fire Authority for 10 years. At this present time I hold the rank of Leading Firefighter at the Belmont Fire Brigade in Geelong and I reside in Rippleside a suburb in Geelong.

I am involved in the Junior Fire Awareness Intervention Program (JFAIP) and have been for over 5 years. I enjoy educating the young kids who have had fire behaviour issues ranging in age from 5 to 16 years of age.

Off duty I volunteer my time helping with my kids sport either scoring for basketball or goal umpiring or Runner. I also volunteered for a year at the Outpost in Geelong Central at lunch times helping to feed the people in need.

I live in a highly urbanised area where if there's a fire in my area I will have a minimum of 7 career firefighters on scene very quickly (2-3 minutes) coming from Corio and Geelong City Brigades. Having 7 career firefighters at in incident enables a safer environment and a more proficient outcome of the incident for the firefighters and the Community, which is the sole purpose to Protect Life and Property.

One fire service for Victoria (career Staff) will mean that there will be NO impact on Volunteer firefighters. In fact, Volunteers for CFA will get an additional amount of money for training and new equipment.

Volunteerism today had seen the decline in numbers due to work and family commitments. (I have noticed this in my 10 years). Even when still involved in their brigades the time committed is still not adequate to be able to perform at a professional level.

Torquay/Highton Fire Brigades are examples where they fail to respond or have members who are not able to perform roles at incidents. I have been involved and witnessed this multiple times at incidents over the years. Again this is not the fault of the volunteers, it's the way life is today. (Can't commit time so less qualified to perform any roles.) This will change when CFA becomes a volunteer only Fire service with additional trainers to train Volunteers and again more funding.

CFA career staffs EBA has gone on for too long. It has been used as political agendas for politicians (Liberal Party) who have no understanding of what Firefighters have to do day in and day out. It has been very frustrating for myself and my family because of all the false reporting and abuse we have received from the general public because of the false information given by Liberal Politicians and the Herald Sun. I campaigned at polling booths to inform the public of the truth, not lies given by workers working for the Liberal Party wearing hands off CFA t-shirts. They told me to my face that they didn't care at all about CFA volunteers. Again it has been a frustrating time for all career staff who turn up to work to protect their communities to only be abused by the informed public. How does Firefighters be the number 1-2 profession over a number of years and yet be subjected to this political gain. It's an absolute disgrace.

I can only hope that the committee will do the right by its Victorian Firefighters .

Regards

Tim Milsome **Leading Firefighter**

Belmont Fire Station – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

“STRENGTH IN UNITY”

This email is for official use only. The information in this communication is privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, copying or use of the information is strictly prohibited. Any personal information in this email must be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and applicable laws. If you have received this transmission in error please inform us by return email and then delete it immediately from your system.