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07/07/2017 12:04 AM

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

1 attachment



Fire Reform Submission.pdf

Please find attached my submission fire service reform

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Dear Committee Members,

RE: SUBMISSION FOR FIRE SERVICES REFORM

Thank you for taking the time to review my submission. I am writing to show my support for Fire Services Reform. Please ensure that my personal details, including contact details, remain **confidential**.

I have been employed with the MFB for 30 years. I am a qualified Firefighter, my rank being Leading Firefighter. My present position is a Recruit Training Instructor at Craigieburn VEMTEC. I have instructed Recruit courses 119, 120 & 121 & I have been retained to instruct the new Victorian Recruit Firefighter Course.

The last MFB Recruit Training Course 121 involved three CFA career Firefighter Instructors. This was interesting for me because it allowed me to see the differences between the two methods of training. I am looking forward to being involved with the new VRF Recruit Program and even though there are small differences between the MFB & CFA I can only see a positive benefit for the Victorian Community.

I have worked at several Fire Stations including Northern & Central districts and have been involved in numerous Fire Education Programs and Community Awareness Programs.

There have been many occasions I have attended calls, both fire & incidents where CFA Volunteers have also attended. The difference between professional & volunteer firefighters is that when volunteers arrive at a call, they may not be suitably qualified to perform the duties required at that time.

An example of that situation is: - *I attended a school fire in Montmorency some years ago. As the first truck at respond to this call, it was evident we required immediate backup. We were relieved a CFA truck arrived, however they were not trained BA operators, therefore they were unable to enter the building. We did enter the building & attack the fire, but with less confidence than that if they were able to enter with us & attack the fire more aggressively. The problem therein is not only for our own safety, without the required backup, but the risk of extensive fire damage and or loss of life!*

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I am passionate about my job, the safety of the community & the growth of Fire Services in Victoria. I have seen a lot in 30 years, my qualifications include:

- Structural Fire Fighting
- Wild Fire Fighting
- MK 4 Pumper Tanker Operator
- MK 5 Pumper Tanker Operator
- Teleboom Operator
- Water Tank Operator
- Heavy Rescue Operator
- Certified EMR Operator
- Cert 4 Work Place Training & Assessor
- Cert 4 Small Business & Computers
- Qualified Fitter & Turner/Toolmaker

I resided in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne for 50 years and have seen the increased residential growth in Melbourne. I moved to Tootgarook on the Mornington Peninsula 7 years ago and it really concerns me that the current fire boundaries desperately need a modern, specialist Fire Reform with timely responses, to provide safety to the growing Community Victoria wide.

The ongoing industrial dispute and media attention regarding ALL Fire Services has caused significant stress & anxiety to myself, my wife & my family. We desperately need Fire Service Reform, so we can build confidence and safety within the fire service and the wider community.

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