



[REDACTED]
07/07/2017 04:38 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF
cc [REDACTED]
bcc [REDACTED]
Subject Fire services reform.

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

Please keep my name and identifying factors confidential.

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a professional CFA fire-fighter for three years. I am currently based at Geelong city fire station.

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

- In my Station of Geelong City callouts have increased by 67 percent over the last ten years and we are on target to hit 2500 callouts this year.
- Victoria's fire services boundaries have not changed significantly in 60 years. Under this out-dated system, 35 areas are wrongly zoned as 'country', despite being heavily urbanised and residential. Frankston, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Craigieburn, Melton, Springvale, Boronia, and my station Geelong are just some of the 35 'country areas'.
- These areas need to be modernised as they are highly urbanised areas as part of the reform of the fire service. A rapid 8 minute response, with 7 professional career firefighters on two fire trucks is the minimum standard needed in highly urbanised areas.
- All Victorian, professional and volunteer firefighters, deserve modern fire services that meet the needs of our growing communities.

A recent example which highlights the problems of the current system is that Geelong city is now supporting the Bellarine group from 6am till 6pm Monday to Friday, to increase response times and support volunteer brigades that are obviously struggling to turn out in some circumstances, given that most work day jobs. This is increasing an already heavy work load for our station and stretching our resources in our primary areas.

I live on the Bellerine and the community deserves a more modern service that can ensure the safety of its residents.

There are plenty of these growing communities on these urban fringes that are not getting level of service and coverage that they require.

Reform of our fire services will ensure the numbers on the fire ground we need, rapid response times and new stations opening in the areas that need it most, Additionally, it will ensure the safety of our firefighters and stop the ever increasing and unrealistic demand being placed on volunteer firefighters because of the enormous urban growth resulting in increased emergency calls.

I also respectfully submit that you give consideration to my request to modernise the fire service. This is important to me and my colleagues.

Kind regards .

[REDACTED]

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.