



07/07/2017 04:52 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Services Reform Bill

Dear Assistant clerk committees,

My name is [REDACTED], I have been employed by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) since February 2016. I completed my training at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre in June 2016 and have been stationed at Carlton fire station since.

I write in support the Fire Services Reform Bill currently before the committee. I grew up in country Victoria in the Goulburn Valley and completed my schooling in Shepparton Victoria. Most of my family still resides in and around Shepparton. I have friends who are volunteer fire fighters in regional areas and friends who are career firefighters with the MFB and CFA.

The fact is that the Metropolitan Fire District (MFD) boundaries were established over 60 years ago and have not been amended since. Since then Melbourne and furthermore Victoria's regional centres like Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton, Mildura etc. populations have grown, and with it the fire brigades service requires change.

That the districts surrounding Melbourne have further established from rural areas to high density residential and/or industrial areas proves the need for fire service reform and amendment of the fire district boundaries. The reformed fire service will also provide provision for a Fire District Review Panel which allows an ongoing review of population density in areas to identify high risk areas for the community so as our state grows we too can provide the community with the protection they require.

Currently the MFB and CFA are training recruits on the same course providing them the same training. All current operational staff has been trained to a similar standard, albeit using slightly different equipment and being governed by slightly different operational procedures. Through bringing both professional firefighting organisations under the one banner there can be efficiencies gained in operations through management and amalgamating procedures. When turning out to jobs in those current "urban fringe" areas career firefighters will be able to work more effectively and provide the community a better service by being governed by the same procedures, and dispatched by the same communications centre while having clear boundaries and better communication. When volunteers are dispatched to a job it means they need to leave their workplaces/families etc. By providing a better service via an amalgamated career firefighting organisation, and amending the boundaries, this will reduce the need for volunteer turnout for menial jobs like bin fires or false alarms in the highly populated "urban fringe" areas in turn limiting the disruption to local businesses and volunteer firefighters family life. Volunteer brigades will still be utilised when required on larger jobs, and provide surge capacity for large scale jobs.

By bringing both professional firefighting organisations under the one banner there can be efficiencies gained through management and operations which can in turn translate to cost savings by removing duplication of personnel and effort.

In summary I would like to state that I believe that this Fire Service Reform Bill will be a good change and provide a significant improvement to the service we provide to the community of Victoria in turn providing Victorians a safer community.

I would like my name and identity to remain confidential.

Regards,

Firefighter [REDACTED]  
Carlton Fire Station | Central District | North West Metro Region  
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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