

## Submission to the Fire Services Review.

My submission is brief as I am currently travelling overseas and will not return until after the deadline. I have not coordinated with my brigade on this submission.

I address Guideline (a) on **resourcing**.

**My basic submission is that there needs to be a better, transparent method of ensuring equity of resources between brigades, according to their needs.** My reasoning follows.

1. My observation of various brigades in Victoria is that local financial resources and, thus capacity to fund-raise vary considerable, eg Mt Macedon appears to have a more prosperous resident body than Jamieson. Yet the government requires brigades to raise funds from their communities for **essential** equipment and facilities.
2. I am a member of the Glenroy-Merrijig brigade in District 23. Glenroy – Merrijig has identified a number of needs over the last few years, including shed facilities for women members (there is no toilet at all), a Slip-On (light tanker) able to access the many residential properties in our area with bridges unsafe for the Tanker, and the need to replace a Quick-Fill pump deemed by the CFA as no longer satisfying Occupational Health & Safety requirements.
3. Each of these projects has required submissions and/or considerable fund-raising. By contrast I know of a number of brigades that are in a position to benefit from the largesse of generous individual donors with sufficient means, thus short-cutting the process. Our brigade has taken a number of years to move up the funding queue. Provision of these needs is now well advanced and my submission is not an appeal to support these particular projects.
4. However while recognising that all government programs must draw from a limited pool at any time, a **transparent system of equalisation of resourcing would assist the morale of the volunteer fire-fighter who is also a fundraiser.**

John McCombe

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