

28 August 2015

Mr David O'Byrne
Fire Services Review
Department of Justice & Regulation
GPO Box 4356
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Enquiries to: A Kourambas
File Ref: 5082544

Dear Mr O'Byrne

Fire Services Review

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Fire Services Review of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I provide this submission on behalf of Knox City Council.

Knox Council enjoys a very good and long term relationship with the local CFA brigades. Seven brigades are located in the City of Knox: Bayswater, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Upper Ferntree Gully, Rowville, Scoresby and The Basin. This relationship includes joint emergency management planning, emergency test exercises, fire prevention and fuel reduction management, community safety events and community building events.

The local brigades, particularly the volunteers are fundamental in supporting our community's resilience to emergency events and risks. The local brigades also help to develop strong local community leaders and to strengthen the community's sense of connection and belonging. The bond between the CFA and the local community is demonstrated annually at the Knox Festival with a CFA torchlight parade where the community gather to greet and show their appreciation to the volunteer fire fighters.

In response to the review specifically, Knox Council has resolved as follows:

- Council reaffirms its strong support for the continuation of the current Country Fire Authority (CFA) model as a stand-alone fire and emergency response authority, particularly highlighting the uniqueness and benefits of being a largely volunteer, community-based organisation.
- Council is disappointed at the very tight timeframe provided for the making of submissions to the Review, and the resultant reduced opportunity for broad and genuine community engagement on this important issue, but most importantly, the lack of consultation with Councils given their extensive role in emergency management.
- Council wishes to highlight the strong, long term relationship Council has enjoyed with CFA brigades within the Knox municipality in providing a high quality fire and emergency response service to the Knox community.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] for any further information required in this submission.

Yours sincerely

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Angelo Kourambas
Director City Development