



# WONGA PARK FIRE BRIGADE

Old Yarra Road Wonga Park Vic 3115  
www.wongaparkcfa.org  
Phone 03 9722 1463 Fax 03 9722 1381

## FIRE SERVICES REVIEW

### Andrew Twining

Secretary

Wonga Park Fire Brigade  
2 Old Yarra Road, Wonga Park, 3115.

### Mr David O'Byrne

Fire Services Review  
Level 19, 121 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

## SUBMISSION OF BEHALF OF WONGA PARK FIRE BRIGADE

I write as the nominated representative for the Wonga Park Fire Brigade which is part of District 13, North East Region (CFA) who have a proud history of service to the community as a completely volunteer fire brigade for the past 75 years.

### COMMENT

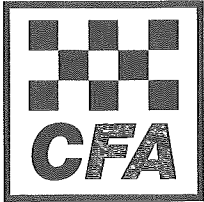
In order to keep this document as brief as possible, the submission will be kept brief with more detail provided if required.

### BRIGADE RISK PROFILE

CLASS4 Structural-Wildfire BOSP Risk profile.

### SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

- (1) Inter-operability between the CFA and MFB particularly around the fire services boundary.
  - (2) Why Wonga Park Brigade does not have a more realistic support role to the MFB ?
  - (3) Call activity
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(1) Inter-operability between the CFA and MFB particularly around the boundary.

At present, on an initial emergency response Wonga Park CFA provides a support role to Warrandyte South CFA and the newly formed Chirnside Park CFA to the east and west respectively. Wonga Park provides no support to the north due to the Yarra River being a physical barrier.

Wonga Park CFA's southern boundary of Croydon North and Croydon Hills borders with the MFB District and for reasons unknown the Brigade does not support into MFB area on initial response or a subsequent 2<sup>nd</sup> ALARM Greater Alarm Response.

Unlike many other CFA Brigades across Victoria who work co-operatively with the MFB, Wonga Park does not support the MFB. However, the MFB does support Wonga Park CFA on an initial response into two of our southern boundary response zones (WONG2 & WONG4) which consists of a very considerable urban & urban/rural risk.

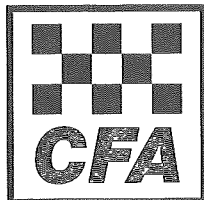
This situation creates the ludicrous scenario which has happened on many occasions that the MFB can literally be 'across the road' at a fire which resides a fraction outside the Wonga Park response area in MFB territory and Wonga Park does not get notified or called out. Further resources are then often called from MFB areas like, Ringwood (FS22), Nunawading(FS27) and even Boronia CFA which is an outrageous misallocation of resources, while the Wonga Park appliances are only a mere four kilometres away remain in Station. Not only is this situation a gross misuse of resources, it deprives CFA volunteers valuable experience in responding to urban fires; It also denies brigade members from establishing better working relationships with the MFB and to gain knowledge of MFB equipment and command & control procedures.

(2) Why we do not have more realistic support role to the MFB ?

The answer to this question is completely unknown.

Many other CFA Brigades enjoy close working relationships with the MFB. Perhaps long established historical understandings between our Brigade and the MFB are long overdue for much needed review?

To our knowledge, most if not all CFA brigades that boarder the MFB have a large Urban Pumper appliance. Currently Wonga Park's main structural firefighting appliance is a Medium Pumper-Tanker which is a composite type vehicle. This could be a reason why we do not provide a support role to the MFB (?)



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Croydon MFB (FS26) and Wonga Park CFA do not always have an interactive relationship and reception at a fires and incidents can vary considerably. Our goal at Wonga Park is to attain a strong working relationship and understanding with our sister agency so we can provide the community with the best level of protection, professionalism and to demonstrate consistency between the two services with regards to fire suppression and emergency response.

### (3) Call activity

At present, Wonga Park CFA commits an enormous amount of man hours training for both rural and urban fires and rescue. The level of professionalism and ability within our group generally is truly a credit to the ethos of the CFA.

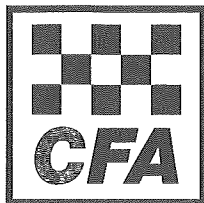
Due to factors outside our control, our call activity remains relatively low due to what could be perceived as a misuse of resources.

Obviously there is a delicate balance between being overused and overcalled and being 'dead quiet'. The end consequence of a lack of real fire experience is a decline in skills maintenance and a decline in enthusiasm and participation.

### BRIGADE ACTIVITY

Wonga Park Fire Brigade forms part of the Maroondah Group of fire brigade's in CFA's District 13. Here is the Groups response activity for financial year 2014-15 via BOSP on Brigades online:

1. LILYDALE CLASS5	361 Calls
2. MOOROOLBARK CLASS5	242 Calls Boarders and provides support to MFB
3. WARRANDYTE CLASS5	197 Calls Boarders and provides support to MFB
4. HEALESVILLE CLASS4	192 Calls
5. MT EVELYN CLASS4	181 Calls
6. STH WARRANDYTE CLASS 4	152 Calls Boarders and provides support to MFB
7. BADGER CREEK CLASS3	113 Calls
8. COLDSTREAM CLASS3	94 Calls
9. WONGA PARK CLASS4	68 Calls Boarders and provides NO support to MFB
10. YARRA GLEN CLASS3	64 Calls
11. DIXONS CREEK CLASS1	38 Calls



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## CONCLUSION

We believe that the northern area of MFB assignment **No87** needs to be reviewed in order to provide the community with a more appropriate level of fire emergency response. This would create the following significant advantages;

- (1) Better working relationships and interoperability between CFA and MFB.
- (2) Valuable experience at urban fires for volunteers.(and)
- (3) Skills maintenance and application.
- (4) Better response times generally, particularly if MFB resources are committed elsewhere.

### **Fire Services Review to receive public submissions**

Mr David O'Byrne, who has been appointed by the government to conduct the Fire Services Review, is accepting submissions from the general public related to the [Review's Terms of Reference](#) (pdf).

If you wish to make a submission, include the following information with your submission:

- name
- address
- email address
- phone number

Submissions must be made by **31 August 2015**.

Submissions will be posted on the Fire Services Review webpage (with contact details removed) when the webpage has been established.

If you want your submission to remain confidential, this should be clearly stated at the beginning of the submission.

An email address is being established to receive submissions, the details of which will be provided as soon as possible.

Submissions may also be sent by post addressed to: