

8 November 2023

Tasmanian Fire Service Reform – Have your Say

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Dear Reform Team

WEST COAST COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE FIRE SERVICE REFORM

The West Coast Council strongly supports the better integration of the TFS and SES. This is an important step in supporting these volunteer led organisations in remote areas. It will support them working more closely together and hopefully streamline support and training. We would encourage the government to do all it can to integrate these services so that volunteer groups in remote Tasmania can be better resourced and supported.

The West Coast Council also supports the proposed funding model. It is unfair that currently a remote community like the West Coast, with approximately 4000 residents paying to support SES services across the largest LGA in the State. The vast majority of road rescues and other activities by the SES units in our LGA do not support our ratepayers, but visitors to our region. In effect the current funding model means that our residents are paying for services to the large number of visitors and non-residential workers that come to our LGA. This is not fair or sustainable. Therefore, we support a State-wide funding mechanism that funds services based on AAV as a useful proxy for ability to pay and provides SES and TFS services where they are needed. This is a fair way to fund these important services. We also support a two-tiered approach as it is clear that the level of service that will be provided, particularly in relation to fire is different in areas far distant from career brigades, and therefore it is appropriate that there is a urban and remote rate.

Yours Sincerely



Shane Pitt

MAYOR

CC: Felix Ellis – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management,

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