

23 November 2023



Cleaner.
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The Officer in Charge
Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill
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Via Email: FES.Reform@dpfem.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill & Funding options

Thank you for extending an invitation to the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) to contribute to consultation on the reform of Tasmania's Fire and Emergency Service.

TMEC's membership base represents an important wealth creating sector within the Tasmanian economy. The combined minerals and manufacturing sector employs 21,000 people and contributed \$2.795B in exports as of the 12 months to June 2023. Most of our members are based in regional areas of Tasmania and therefore provide critical employment opportunities away from public funded employers. Minerals exports alone account for 62.9% of Tasmania's commercial exports and is the foundation stone of many regional communities with 5,200 direct jobs.

Following the Roundtable chaired by Minister Ellis on 8th November in which TMEC was a participant and contributor, the Minister has taken the decision to withdrawal the current proposal and regroup. TMEC is aware a Working Group is planned to meet on 11th December. TMEC is supportive of the decision to withdraw the proposal and engage with a stakeholder group to develop a range of options. TMEC is likely to confirm its participation once the Terms of Reference have been made available.

TMEC is supportive of taking a more measured approach. The key points, some of which were echoed by other participants are:

1. The reforms provide an opportunity to consider more than funding in terms of improving the capability to respond. As mentioned, incentivising employers to promote their employees' becoming volunteers as well as the impact this can have on a business when employees are called away from work to respond to issues.
2. Where it can be demonstrated a levy or payment will be a significant increase over what the business has paid previously, the opportunity exists to phase in the payments over a few years.
3. Recognition is given to entities that have paid a levy via their insurance premiums and for the levies to be withdrawn to avoid double payment.
4. The updated funding model is effectively funding two changes:

- a. The acknowledgment of climate change and how it impacts on organisations such as the Fire Services and SES; and
- b. The combination of two organisations which should deliver some efficiencies from non-operational area. TMEC wants to ensure there is expenditure transparency associated with both changes.

TMEC appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the reform of Tasmania's Fire and Emergency Service. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification of any of the points raised herein.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mostogl', written in a cursive style.

Ray Mostogl
Chief Executive Officer