



# STATE FIRE COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2004-05



## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Honourable D Llewellyn MHA  
Minister for Health and Human Services

Dear Minister

In accordance with Section 107(g) of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the Report of the State Fire Commission for the year ending 30 June 2005.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.



J. B. Gledhill BSc, FIFire E, AFSM  
**CHIEF OFFICER**



W.K. Sawford BEc  
**COMMISSION  
MEMBER**

4 October 2005



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## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### VISION

Our vision is a Tasmanian community safe from the impact of fire and other emergencies.

### PROFILE

Tasmanian firefighters have served the Tasmanian community since the early 1800's and have had a legislated responsibility since 1883. The current Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) was established by the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

Today the TFS is an innovative and efficient Statewide service that continues to build on its proud history. The TFS provides services from 236 brigades throughout Tasmania. These services include rapid and effective response to emergencies including fires, entrapments and Hazmat incidents as well as fire prevention and fire safety education.

In 2004-05 our 279 career firefighters and 4,668 volunteer firefighters responded to over 10,000 incidents.

58 Community Fire Safety employees contributed in the work units of Building Safety, TasFire Training, TasFire Equipment and Community Education, and they and our firefighters were reinforced by 100 support and administrative staff.

Our volunteers and career staff work as an integrated team committed to achieving our vision for a safe Tasmania.



"High Standard", The Examiner

### OUR ROLE

The role of the State Fire Commission (SFC) is to protect life, property and the environment from the impact of fire and other emergencies.

The Commission delivers all of its services through its operational arm, the TFS.

We provide a rapid emergency response and promote fire safety in partnership with the community. We will measure our success by:

- Comparing performance with industry benchmarks.
- Achieving our periodic goals and objectives.
- Maintaining financial strength and viability.



"Vounteer fireys fight own battle", The Examiner



## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In carrying out this role we will demonstrate a commitment to the following key principles:

- Operate in a consistent and fair manner.
- Keep in touch with stakeholder expectations.
- Provide development opportunities for all members.
- Display strength and unity in membership.

## MAJOR GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**GOAL:** Delivery of an effective and efficient fire service.

**OUTCOME:** A rapid response to fires and other emergencies that minimises the social, economic and environmental cost to the community.

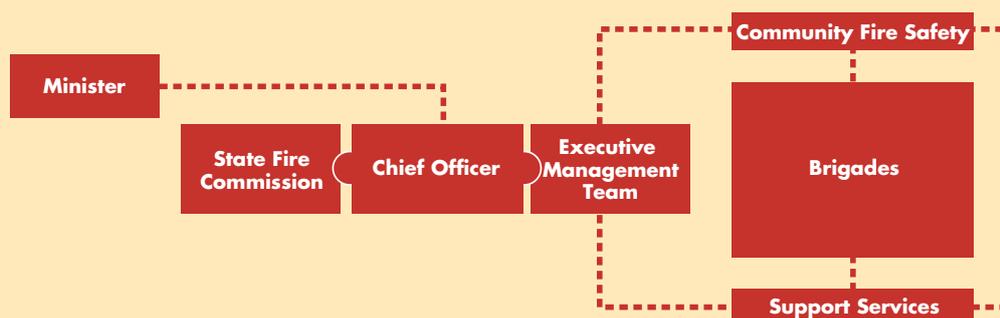
**GOAL:** Promotion, coordination and delivery of effective fire prevention and safety education and training to the community.

**OUTCOME:** Fewer unwanted fires in a community that is willing and able to respond appropriately when threatened by fire.

**GOAL:** Support for our people.

**OUTCOME:** An increase in skill levels, job satisfaction, workplace safety, reduced absenteeism together with an harassment-free workplace.

## TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE STRUCTURE



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

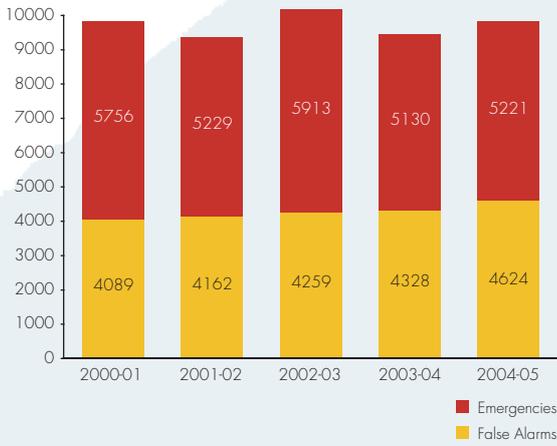
Performance Targets	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Target	2006-07 Target
<b>Operational</b>					
Number of incidents	9,787	8,000	10,084	8,000	8,000
Number of fires	4,050	3,600	4,067	3,600	3,600
Number of preventable house fires per 100,000 households	205	180	173	175	170
Number of false alarms	4,328	3,900	4,624	3,800	3,700
Percentage of fire causes undetermined	23%	17%	21%	16%	15%
Percentage of fires in structures confined to room of origin	76%	78%	77%	79%	80%
<b>Financial</b>					
Operating surplus after abnormal items	\$5.3M	\$1.0M	\$4.6M	\$0.5M	\$1.6M
Return on assets	7.7%	1.8%	6.3%	1.1%	2.5%
Return on equity	9.4%	1.7%	7.5%	1.7%	2.6%
Debt to equity	8.0%	7.8%	7.2%	7.7%	7.4%
Current ratio	111.4%	109.0%	59.9%	121.7%	125.2%
<b>Human Resources</b>					
Staff turnover	2.3%	6.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Average sick days per employee	5.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8
Workers compensation claims	70	77	52	77	76



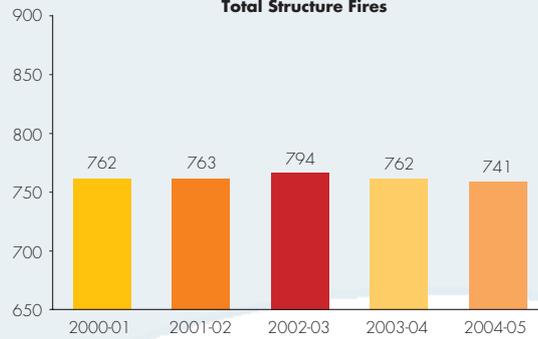
# FACTS AT A GLANCE



**Number of Incidents**



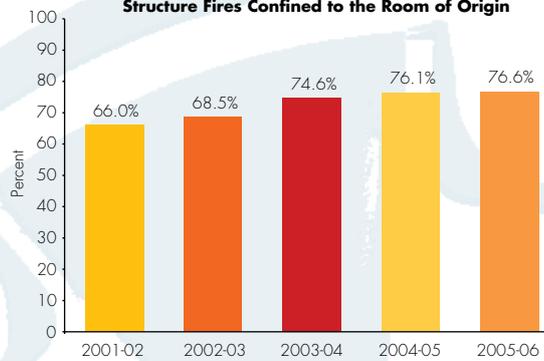
**Total Structure Fires**



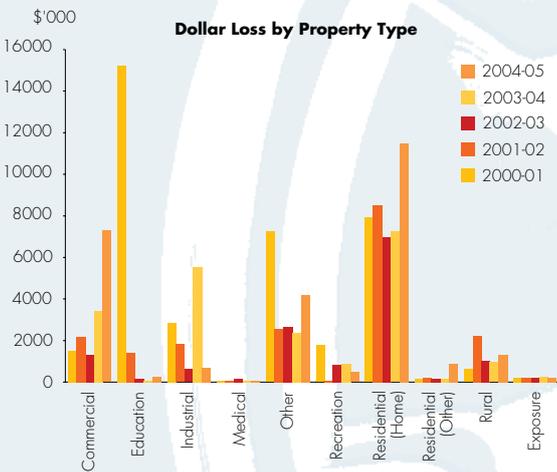
**Fire Fatality Rate per 100,000 Persons**



**Structure Fires Confined to the Room of Origin**



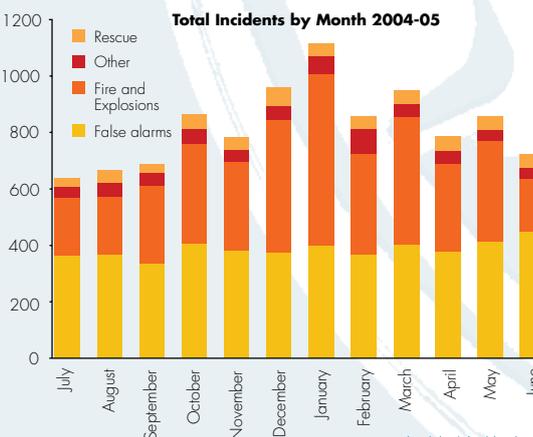
**Dollar Loss by Property Type**



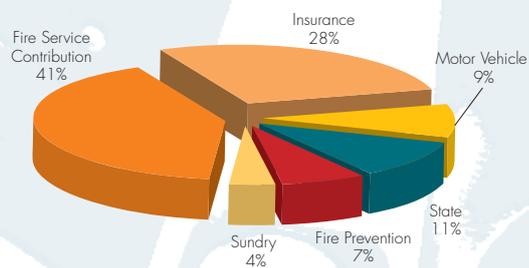
**Workers Compensation Claims**



**Total Incidents by Month 2004-05**



**Revenue 2004-05 (\$51.1 million)**



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



"Call to prepare for summer fire season", The Advocate

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2004-05

I am pleased to report that the State Fire Commission enjoyed a year of significant achievements. Long term strategic goals of the Commission to consolidate its accommodation infrastructure and achieve a sustainable fire appliance replacement program neared realisation. The purchase of a property adjacent to the Commission's engineering workshop in Burnie in 2005 represents the final major property acquisition in its building program. Similar to the Youngtown development in the Northern Region, the new Burnie property will enable the co-location of all TFS services as well as providing the opportunity to create a regional training facility. A major refurbishment of the Cambridge Training facilities was substantially completed. The upgraded complex will provide state of the art training facilities and also enable co-location of the East Coast District headquarters and Cambridge Brigade.

With the building program nearing completion, the fire appliance replacement program increased production. At Engineering Services' mechanical maintenance and appliance fabrication workshop on the Cambridge site 55 light tankers were built, the largest ever number of appliances in a year, as part of the Commission's five year rolling appliance replacement program.

The bushfire season while reasonably uneventful, was unusually protracted with an early beginning and a late finish. A dry winter and spring in the east caused an almost record early start with a number of major fires occurring on the east coast near St Helens and Bicheno in the first week in October. Lingering dry summer conditions across the State led to a number of difficult fires in early April. Strong hints of global warming are beginning to emerge that suggest drier conditions could extend fire activity in the future.

During the year a new enterprise agreement for career firefighters and personnel employed under the Tasmanian Fire Fighting Industry Employees Award was negotiated. It provides Tasmanian firefighters with a 24.9% salary increase over 3 years to more closely align their wages to those of their interstate counterparts. The financial impact of this salary increase resulted in the Commission increasing the fire service contribution (to be collected by the Councils in 2005-06) above the consumer price index to assist it to cover the additional costs. Further revenue increases will be required in the future to enable the Commission to meet the increasing wage costs and to continue its capital replacement program in accordance with its five year plan.

Significant progress in improving communication with volunteer brigades has been made through the continued development of the TFS intranet. The majority of organisational, operational and administrative information is now available online to volunteers and career staff through a password protected arrangement. The intranet enables up to date information to be available to all members on an as required basis anywhere through the internet.

Improving safety systems throughout all areas of TFS continued as a major activity. While there is still some work to be done, considerable progress has been made towards achieving effective safety systems.

Providing personal development opportunities for all TFS personnel is a goal that is progressively being actioned. Considerable consultation resulted in a workplace feedback trial commencing during the year with a broad range of work groups. Widespread implementation across all TFS workplaces will occur based on the outcomes of the trial.

A consultative working party has been established to investigate volunteer recruitment issues. Over the years volunteer numbers have declined and although they remain healthy the work of the working party is timely. It is anticipated that an aging population combined with work, family and life pressures will make recruitment and retention increasingly difficult. This working party will assist in finding tools to help volunteer brigades locally in recruiting new volunteers and better ways to strategically manage volunteer recruitment.

I once again recognise and congratulate the three TFS recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal who in 2005 were Regional Chief Michael Brown and Brigade Chiefs Ross Stokman and Andrew Taylor. Our people are vital to the success of TFS and their commitment whether it be as a frontline firefighter, a mechanic, a clerk or a building safety consultant is universal to making Tasmania as safe as it can be.

JB Gledhill  
CHIEF OFFICER



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEMBERS



**John Gledhill** BSc, FIFire E, AFSM

Chairperson of the State Fire Commission and Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service. Former Deputy Chief Officer and Regional Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service with 31 years experience. A Director of the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Pty. Ltd., member of the State Fire Management Council and member of the Bushfire CRC Board of Directors.



**Marie Gill** M Dipl Trade, LLB, Grad Dip Crim

Local Government Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Commission since March 2003. Currently an Alderman with the Devonport City Council. Ms Gill is a retired legal practitioner and was a Barrister and Solicitor of Supreme Courts of Victoria, Northern Territory, Tasmania and The High Court of Australia.



**Richard Bowden**

Local Government Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Commission since June 1993. Former Warden of the Bothwell Municipality and currently Deputy Warden of the Central Highlands Council. Member of the Forestry Committee for the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association since its inception.



**Wendy Sawford** BEc

Department of Treasury and Finance representative on the Commission since June 2001. Director Inter-Government Financial Relations with the Department of Treasury and Finance.



**Chris Deegan** AFSM

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association representative on the State Fire Commission since October 2002. A Volunteer Firefighter since 1969 and current member of the Triabunna Fire Brigade. Group Officer of the Spring Bay Group of Brigades.



**James Smith** AFSM, OAM, JP

Tasmanian Retained Firefighters Association representative on the State Fire Commission since May 2003. Commenced with the Stanley Fire Brigade in 1957 and held various positions including that of Brigade Chief of the Stanley Fire Brigade.



**Leon Dewhurst**

United Firefighters Union Tasmania Branch representative on the State Fire Commission since June 1993. Career fire officer with 31 years experience with the Hobart Fire Brigade. Past President of the UFU.

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### GOAL STATEMENT

To respond to fire and other emergencies in the most efficient and effective manner.

### OBJECTIVES

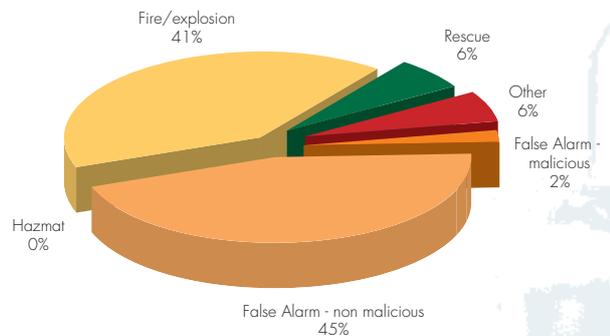
1. To ensure that the closest and most appropriately resourced brigade arrives at an incident in the shortest possible time.
2. To improve the capacity of brigades to manage the risks associated with their respective response areas.
3. To foster the establishment and maintenance of emergency management arrangements between the TFS, other organisations and the community.

### BRIGADE ACTIVITY

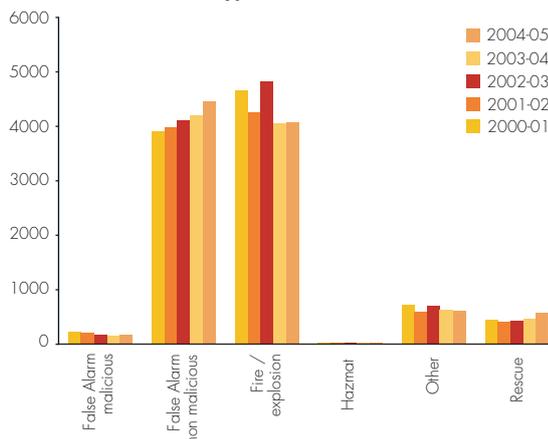
The total number of incidents attended by brigades has increased from 9,787 in 2003-04 to 10,084 incidents in 2004-05. 9,845 of these incidents (97.63%) had full reports submitted.

The total number of fires attended remained fairly steady at 4,067, up only 17 from 2003-04. This can be attributed in part to another quiet fire season during Summer 2004-05. Non-malicious false alarms increased again in 2004-05 to 4,455 up from 4,192 in 2003-04.

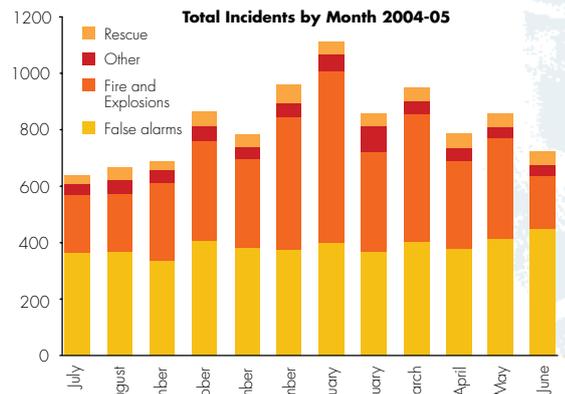
Type of Incidents Attended 2004-05



Type of Incidents Attended



Total Incidents by Month 2004-05





## BUSHFIRE SEASON

Following less than average rainfall through winter and spring parts of the State began to dry out from October 2004.

Significant fires occurred at Bicheno and Doctors Rocks (near St Helens) in mid October, covering 2,000 and 2,400 hectares respectively. Both of these fires were managed by inter-agency incident management teams (IMTs).

During 2004-05, brigades attended 2,133 bushfires which burnt an area of 17,490 hectares. The area burnt does not include the 97 fires that were managed by Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service. The Northern Region had the largest area burnt with a total of 9,959 hectares. Several fires were escaped permit burns, the most significant at Sisters Beach where 770 hectares were burnt.

A medium helicopter was deployed to eight fires in the Southern Region.

A fire at Waterhouse which ran for two months was the longest duration fire for 2004-05 as it was burning in peat and was difficult to fully extinguish. Lightning strikes



"Hot Work", The Mercury

caused several fires in remote areas; two of the most significant were at New River Lagoon and Huon Gorge.

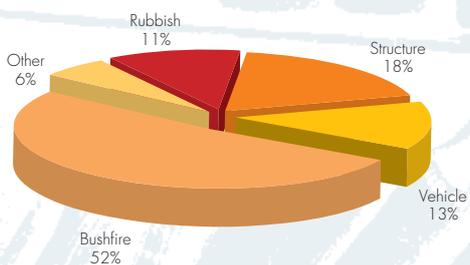
The Fire Permit Period was declared in the Southern and Northern Regions on the 22nd October, followed by the North West Region on the 7th December. Permits were revoked in all areas on the 18th April, 2005.

Fire Permits issued during 2004-05 numbered 3,665 for the State. This increase of 479 on last year was largely due to an unusually long permit period.

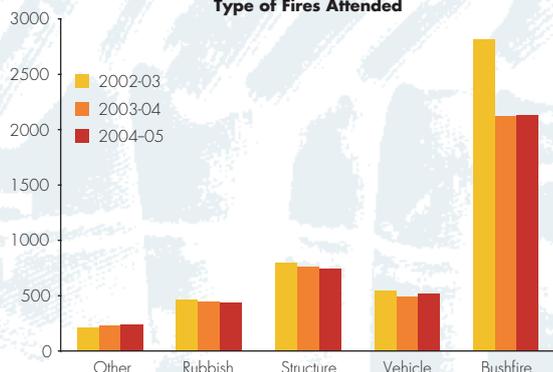
Fires burning adjacent to populated areas at Taroona, Natone Hill, McRobies Gully, Devonport and Karoola again proved a potent reminder that people at risk from bushfire have a responsibility for their own safety and should plan and prepare accordingly.

The TFS website continues to be an effective tool; providing up to date information on the fire situation to land managers, the media as well as the general public.

Type of Fires Attended 2004-05



Type of Fires Attended



### Number of Fire Permits Issued

Region	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North West	1,750	838	1,003	990
Northern	1,635	737	786	1,211
Southern	2,401	1,078	1,397	1,464
<b>Total for State</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>3,186</b>	<b>3,665</b>

STATE FIRE COMMISSION



OBJECTIVE 1

To ensure that the closest and most appropriately resourced brigade arrives at an incident in the shortest possible response time.

RESPONSE TIMES

During 2004-05, several successful response trials were initiated across the State. The "hot day response" is based on known or predicted weather conditions. When there are indicators that bushfires are likely, a hot day response is initiated which involves increasing the weight of attack with a minimum of two brigades responding to all vegetation fires. The trial to date has resulted in successful containment and extinguishment of fires in their initial stages, particularly in the urban interface.

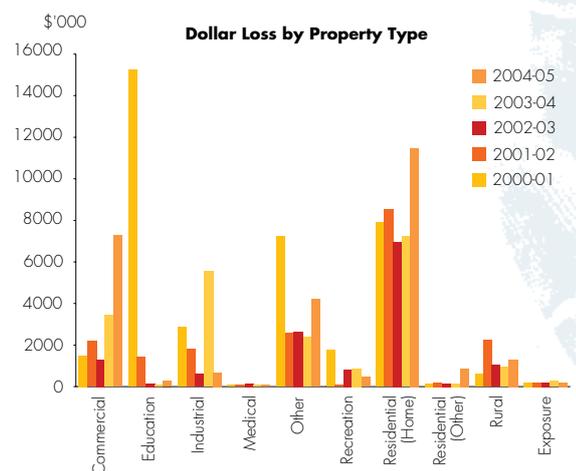
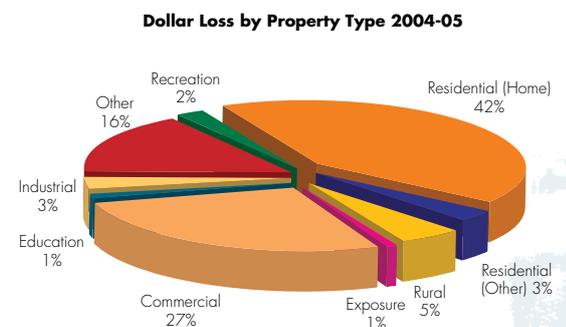
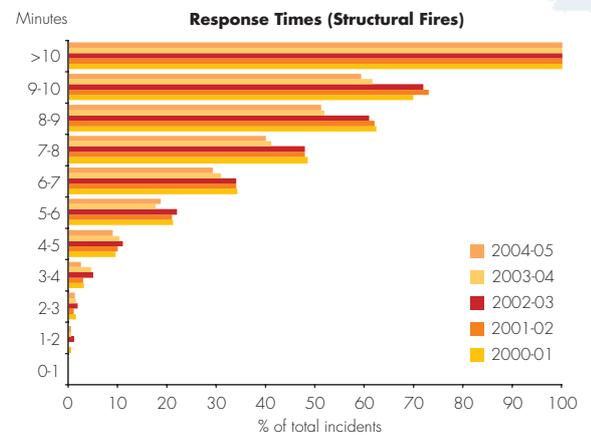
In Southern Tasmania, as a result of a Commonwealth funded initiative, a medium sized helicopter with a capacity of 1,800 litres of water was automatically responded to assist ground crews with their fire suppression roles.

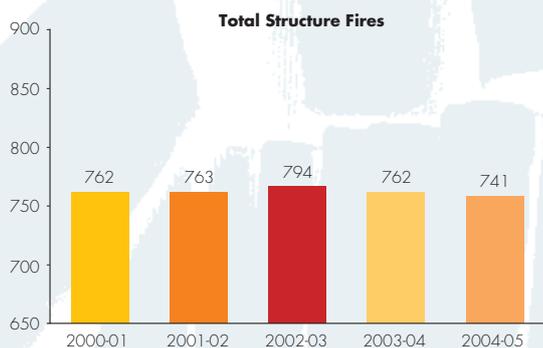
Predetermined incident management teams (IMTs) were appointed when there were periods of high fire danger. These teams were mobilised at short notice to ensure potentially major bushfires were managed and controlled in a minimum timeframe.

PROPERTY FIRES

The total value of property fire losses in 2004-05 was approximately \$26.6 million, up from \$20.7 million in 2003-04 and is largely due to increasing property values rather than an increase in fires.

The number of structure fires over the last financial year has dropped to a five year low of 741 with the number of residential fires continuing in a downward trend from 471 in 2003-04 to 448 in 2004-05.



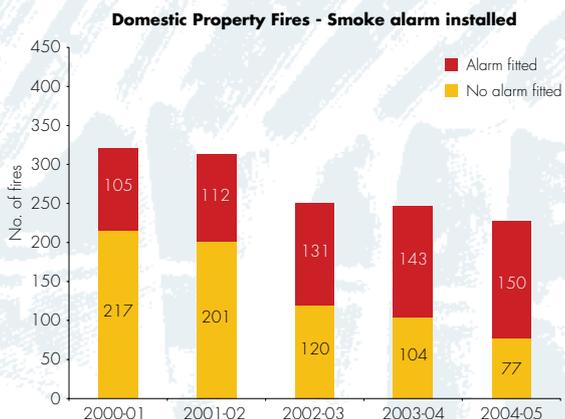
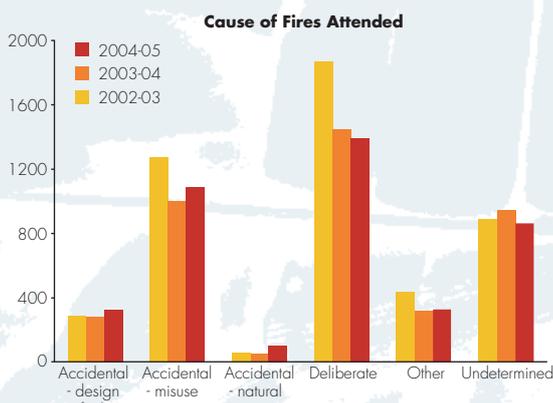
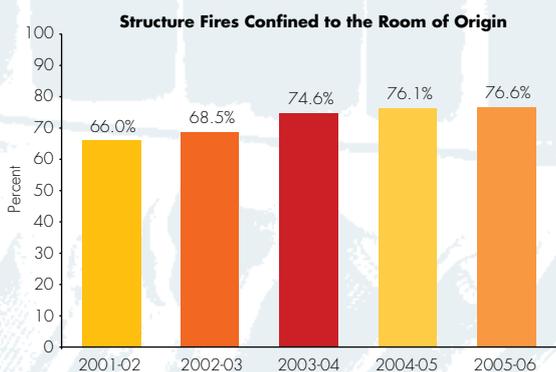
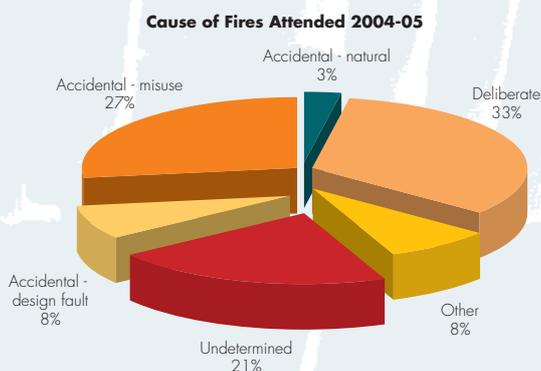


## CAUSE OF FIRE INCIDENTS

The number of deliberately lit fires dropped from 1,449 in 2003-04 to 1,391 in 2004-05. However, accidental fires rose slightly in all three subcategories; 'natural', 'misuse' and 'design fault'. There was a decrease in the percentage of fires for which the cause was undetermined, dropping from 23% to 21%.

## EXTENT OF DAMAGE

A key performance indicator for measuring the effectiveness of property damage mitigation is the proportion of structure fires that spread beyond the room of origin of the initial fire. TFS has maintained steady improvement in this area with a higher proportion of fires being restricted to the room of origin. This proportion has consistently risen from 66.01% in 2000-2001 to 76.65% in the past financial year.



Phil Smith

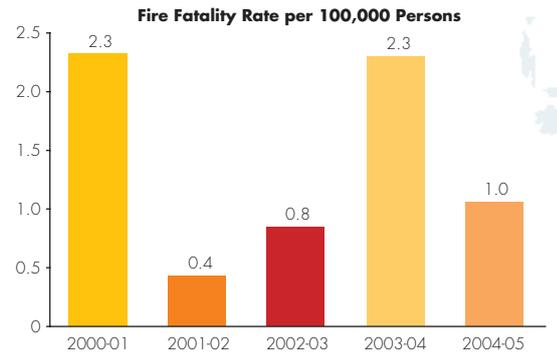
STATE FIRE COMMISSION



FATALITIES AS A RESULT OF FIRE

Preventable fire fatalities (fire-related suicides and homicides excluded) in Tasmania over the last ten years have varied from a high of 12 in 1998-99 to a low of two in 2001-02. 2004-05 saw a drop to five fire deaths, down six from the 2003-04 total of 11.

The graph shows the rate of fire fatalities per 100,000 people. This provides a statistic with which to compare TFS figures with other jurisdictions. The national fire death rate is 0.6 as compared to the TFS rate of 1.06 in 2004-05.



OBJECTIVE 2

Ensure the capacity of brigades to manage the risks associated with their respective response areas.

During this financial year, a draft "model for risk management and brigade classification" was completed. This model is based on methodology relating to population, property values and primary and support responses within brigades' primary response areas. This model replaces the previous standards of fire cover, developed in the early 1980s. It is envisaged that this model will assist in determining the appropriate resources allocated to volunteer brigades.

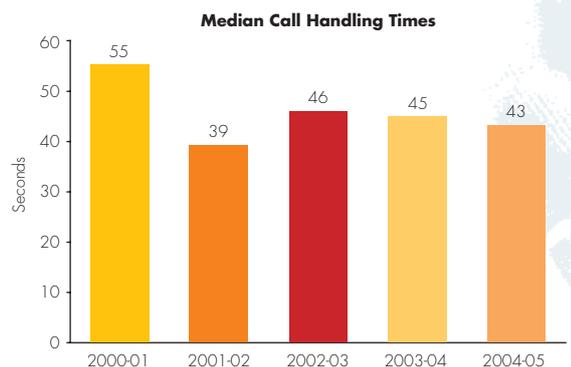
Firefighting safety and effectiveness continues to incrementally improve through the introduction of improved equipment (eg. breathing apparatus, hose and thermal imaging cameras), nationally accredited training (Public Safety Training Package) and new firefighting appliances (tankers, pumpers and aerial appliances).

FIRECOMM

FireComm is responsible for emergency call taking and the dispatch of brigades and other resources to emergency incidents. In addition, FireComm collates and disseminates operational and media information for multi-agency incidents. FireComm also receives and records all bushfires on land managed by Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

A total of 10,181 emergency incidents were recorded and despatched from Firecomm in 2004-05 financial year. These were comprised of 10,084 incidents managed and resourced by TFS, with the balance of 97 incidents, being the responsibility of Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

TFS continues to support software upgrading to the computer aided dispatch system and develop new technologies to assist with the rapid location of fires and the dispatch of appropriate brigades. The impact of this technology is demonstrated by an increasing number of emergency incidents handled by FireComm with shorter time taken to handle dispatches.





The industry standard benchmark of 85% of emergency calls being processed within 105 seconds, from receipt to despatch, continues to be

exceeded. The median call handling time for the reporting period is 43 seconds, with 87.5% of incidents processed within 105 seconds.

### OBJECTIVE 3

**To foster the establishment and maintenance of emergency management arrangements between the TFS, other organisations and the community.**

The long-standing inter-agency protocols that have existed between TFS, the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania have been enhanced, over the last 12 months, by Norske Skog formalising co-operative arrangements with TFS for assistance in firefighting operations on forested private and Crown land managed by them.

The TFS is represented on the State Security Advisory and contributes to the Government's counter-terrorism capability. In practical terms the TFS increased its urban search and rescue and chemical, biological and radiological incident response capabilities through the acquisition of the latest technology and specialist training.

In addition, the TFS updated its MOU with Airservices Australia formalising response and support arrangements during all hours of airport operations. The TFS is the primary response to airport emergencies after regular passenger transport hours.

This year, TFS has completed a review of the State Hazardous Materials Management Plan. This updated version clarifies response arrangements with other emergency services such as Police, Tasmanian Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service as well as Workplace Standards and the Department of Health and Human Services.

### PLANNED OUTCOMES/ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

The TFS will be developing a more flexible and efficient containerised storage and transport system (ie pods and tilt tray appliances) for response to Hazmat, USAR, CBR and other specialist incidents throughout the State. These will be strategically located in Hobart and Launceston.

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The data used for the reporting of operational activities was derived from the TFS' incident reporting system which conforms to Australian Standard 2577 - Australian Incident Reporting System. All TFS fire brigades contribute data to the reporting system. Incident reports are compiled from observations made at the scene by responding officers and fire investigators. Official incident reports from brigades were received for 97.63% of the 10,084 incidents responded to by the TFS. All graphs and tables are based on completed incident reports.

Following a successful trial and evaluation, a new 'phone in' incident reporting system for volunteer brigades was implemented in the final quarter of 2004.

The system has already improved incident data accuracy and consistency and volunteers have welcomed the reduction in paperwork and new brigade operational reports they now receive.

Further enhancements over the next 12 months will include a follow up service from the call centre for reports to be submitted, and improved operational reports for each brigade.

STATE FIRE COMMISSION



GOAL STATEMENT

To have a Tasmanian community that is able to manage fire risks and respond safely to fire.

OBJECTIVES

1. To deliver programs and services that assist the community to minimise fire risks and act safely when fire occurs.
2. To have the business community take responsibility for its fire safety obligations.
3. To ensure our people are equipped to provide consistent fire safety information to the community.

The TFS delivers a broad range of programs to improve the safety of people in the community, with a focus on those most at risk from fire. These programs aim to prevent fires and minimise the impact of any fires that occur. The Community Fire Safety Division delivers programs addressing fire safety in the home and in the workplace. The Division, in partnership with the Fire Management Unit, manages programs to address bushfire risks.

OBJECTIVE 1

To deliver programs and services that assist the community to minimise fire risks and act safely when fire occurs.

IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN OUR HOMES

Young people, the elderly and people with disabilities have a higher-than-average risk of experiencing a fire and suffering injury from fire. In 2004-05, the TFS focused its community education strategies on these at-risk sectors of the community to minimise the social impact of fire.

For children

The School Fire Education Program reached 18,330 primary school children in 2004-05. Children learned about fire safety in and around the home, prepared a home evacuation plan and learned what to do if a fire occurs.

Fire safety messages, consistent with the themes promoted in the School Fire Education Program, are now displayed on the vehicles driven by Community Education staff Statewide.

The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program provides counselling for young children engaged in unsafe fire-lighting behaviour. Twenty-eight children and their families participated in the program in 2004-05.



The TFS entered into another valuable partnership with Crime Stoppers, this time in the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge. This is an award-winning education program examining crime in the community, its impact and the motivations of those who commit it. The crime selected for study this year was arson and related offences.

Students in years 5 to 10 were invited to work in groups to explore their connections with the community, their own beliefs, the motivations of others and to design practical solutions to assist in reducing crime.

All entrants' recommendations on tackling arson and related offences will form a report that will be presented to the Minister of Police and Public Safety, the Commissioner of Police and the Board of Crime Stoppers Tasmania late in 2005.

#### **For the dependent elderly and people with disabilities**

*Project Wake Up!* aims to improve fire safety in the homes of people with disabilities and elderly people, with a focus on the dependent elderly. The program offers free home fire safety checks, and in the homes of many participants, smoke alarms and batteries are installed free of charge.

One hundred and twenty-two community organisations working in the aged care field, as well as many medical practitioners, assisted the TFS to identify potential beneficiaries of the program. Career and volunteer brigades conduct the home fire safety checks and this year 18 brigades visited 461 households. This brings the total number of households participating in the program since its inception in 1999 to 2,053. During 2004-05, 343 free smoke alarms were installed and 256 batteries were replaced.

## **WINTER FIRE SAFETY INITIATIVE – TARGETING THE FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

The centrepiece of this program, which commenced in the winter of 2004, is the 'Fire Safety at Home' booklet. This booklet includes information parents need to make sure their homes and their children are safe from fire, as well as a home fire escape plan for families to work on together.

The program was supported by a promotional campaign that included television advertisements, related fire safety messages on fire trucks Statewide, and a VW beetle also printed with the fire safety messages.

The car was purchased by RACT Insurance for use by the TFS to promote activities associated with the winter fire safety program.

Along with other strategies aimed at those most at risk from fire, this initiative should further decrease the number of house fires in Tasmania.



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### OTHER FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

The TFS continues to offer smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blankets for sale to the community through outlets in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. An estimated 84% of Tasmanian homes have a working smoke alarm.

Launceston firefighters conducted a smoke alarm survey of 351 households over a six week period in late 2004 to obtain accurate data on smoke alarms in homes in Tasmania. The data collected from this survey will be used in conjunction with information from other sources to assist in the development of new initiatives to increase the number of working smoke alarms in Tasmanian homes.

A continuing partnership with Duracell to encourage householders to replace smoke alarm batteries at the end of daylight saving has helped to ensure that the number of working smoke alarms in Tasmania remains high.

### IMPROVING SAFETY FROM BUSHFIRES

Measures undertaken during 2004-05 to prevent bushfires and minimise their impact on the community included:

- A partnership between Tasmania Police and the TFS to address the high number of deliberately lit bushfires on Hobart's urban fringes. This involved firefighters and police officers doorknocking over 100 houses in areas at risk.
- Following the doorknock, there was a significant reduction in the number of bushfires in the area.
- Ongoing development of the TFS website and information management procedures ensured bushfire incident information was more readily available to residents in bushfire affected areas. In turn individuals were better able to make decisions on how to minimise the impact of bushfires on their homes and property.
- The Fire Management Unit made a number of submissions to local government in relation to developments in areas at risk from bushfire. A number of appeals were also made, as well as amendments to planning schemes to incorporate appropriate bushfire safety measures.

- The Fire Management Unit, through the bushfire planning group, reviewed and amended the guidelines for development in bushfire prone areas to produce a plain English document to provide guidance to people living or planning to live in bushfire prone areas.
- Changes introduced to the Fire Permit System as a result of a comprehensive review have improved the overall management of the system. Evaluation of the effect of the changes through consultation with stakeholders is ongoing.
- The Australian Government, through the Bushfire Mitigation Programme, provided in excess of \$270,000 on a dollar for dollar basis for works associated with the construction and maintenance of fire trails, their security, mapping and provision of water points. These funds were shared between Forestry Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife and TFS.
- As a member of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, Tasmania received funding from the Australian Government toward the provision of a medium capacity fire bombing helicopter. It was contracted for an eight week period during January and February and successfully contributed towards the early control of a number of bushfires around Hobart.

### FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Numerous fire safety information sessions were conducted throughout the State by TFS personnel, engaging more than 1,200 community members. Participating community groups included those representing youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. Additional home fire safety information was communicated through brochures distributed widely throughout the community, as well as on the TFS website. The TFS also maintains a toll free service for general fire safety enquiries.

Two mobile community education display trailers promoting fire safety were used extensively by fire brigades throughout the State during 2004-05.



## OBJECTIVE 2

To have the business community take responsibility for its fire safety obligations.

### IMPROVING WORKPLACE FIRE SAFETY

#### Fire Protection Equipment

Owners and occupiers of buildings, other than domestic housing, have obligations under the *General Fire Regulations 2000* to maintain installed fire protection equipment to appropriate standards.

In excess of 150 audits and 750 building inspections were undertaken during 2004-05 to measure the degree to which installed fire protection equipment complies with fire safety requirements.

#### Evacuation Plans

Owners and occupiers of prescribed buildings are required to develop plans for the evacuation of occupants in the event of fire. Such plans must be prepared in accordance with Australian Standards 3745 or 4083 and must be approved by the Chief Officer.

In 2004-05 a total of 221 evacuation plans received approval.

### IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN BUILDINGS

The TFS Building Safety Unit has developed a number of strategies to improve fire safety in the business community, particularly those which present a greater risk to life.

Detailed information about the fire safety obligations of building owners and occupiers arising from the *General Fire Regulations 2000*, the *Building Regulations 2004* and the *Building Code of Australia* was widely distributed to the business community through local government and TFS offices, in correspondence and on the TFS website.



"The Message", The Examiner

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### A FOCUS ON SCHOOLS

A principal fire safety focus in the past 12 months has been on schools. Measures to improve fire safety in schools in 2004-05 include:

- *Upgrade of fire safety systems and equipment.* Approximately 100 schools requiring fire safety upgrades were identified. The installation of recommended systems and equipment was completed and almost all systems and equipment are now compliant with relevant fire safety standards. Outstanding work will be completed in 2005-06.
- *Standardised evacuation plans.* In consultation with the Education Department, templates to facilitate the standardisation of evacuation plans were developed and made available to schools on the Department's website. These templates also serve to ensure that ultimately, teachers and students transferring between schools understand evacuation procedures at their new school from the outset. Schools currently operating with an older evacuation plan are encouraged to amend their plans to incorporate a new format consistent with Australian Standard 3745 and submit them to the Chief Officer for approval.
- *Compliance audits.* In the past two years approximately 35% of schools have been subject to at least one fire safety audit. Audits measure the degree to which fire safety requirements provided in school buildings comply with the requirements of the *General Fire Regulations 2000*. Recommendations flowing from these audits are being progressively implemented.



"Drop", The Advocate

### FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

The TasFire Equipment unit employs twenty three fire equipment officers to service, on a fee for service basis, fire protection equipment in approximately 7,000 workplaces across the State. They are trained to inspect, install and maintain a broad range of equipment including fire hose reels, fire blankets, fire hydrants, fire extinguishers and fire hose. Competing with private sector providers, the unit operates workshops in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport where extinguishers are pressure-tested and recharged, hose is coupled and repaired and other maintenance is performed.

### TRAINING

The TFS commercial training unit, TasFire Training, delivers a number of accredited training courses to enhance safety in Tasmanian workplaces. These courses focus on the prevention and management of fires and other emergencies. Other courses also offered, on a fee for service basis, include safe working in confined spaces and use of breathing apparatus. TasFire Training also conducts a course in fire investigation which attracts participants from throughout Australasia.

During the financial year 2004-05, a total of 954 courses were conducted for 9,168 employees from workplaces across Tasmania. The increasing level of fire safety awareness and emergency response skills in Tasmanian workplaces secondarily improves safety in the homes of these employees through increased fire safety awareness.

In response to industry demand, a new course entitled *Working Safely at Height* was developed during 2004-05 and added to the TFS' scope of registration. Significant consultation with industry stakeholders took place to ensure the course meets clients' needs.



## OBJECTIVE 3

To ensure our people are equipped to provide consistent fire safety information to the community.

A number of strategies to increase the knowledge of TFS members about fire safety issues and programs have been implemented.

Community Fire Safety staff participated in staff development workshops to ensure knowledge and understanding of the community fire safety issues they address are being shared throughout the organisation.

Fire brigades are becoming increasingly engaged in the delivery of selected community development programs such as *Project Wake Up!* Participation in these programs increases firefighters' understanding of fire safety issues impacting on at-risk sectors of the community.

Articles about fire safety initiatives are included in the TFS in-house magazine *Fireground*. This quarterly magazine is posted to all members of the TFS and widely distributed in our workplaces to broaden understanding within the TFS of the range of activities we engage in and the programs we deliver.

"Wish granted", *The Examiner*



## PLANNED OUTCOMES/ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

- Inform the community about the range of fire safety programs and services available from the TFS.
- Provide easy access to information about fire safety.
- Increase vulnerable people's participation in relevant fire safety programs.
- Continue to develop and implement measures to improve the community's safety from bushfires and house fires.
- Ensure TFS members provide consistent information about fire safety to the community.
- Increase brigades' participation in the delivery of selected fire safety programs.
- Provide information to at-risk sectors of the business community about their fire safety obligations.
- Improve the standard of fire protection equipment servicing throughout Tasmania.



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION

### GOAL STATEMENT

To support our people in a fair, productive and safe work environment.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To attract the right people.
2. To have systems and strategies that enable our people to be productive in the workplace.
3. To have a working environment that supports our people and the delivery of our services.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To attract the right people.

#### RECRUITING AND RETAINING OUR PEOPLE

The implementation of the following key recommendations from the Volunteer Recruitment Project commenced during the year with project plans being developed for implementation during the next financial year;

- strategically manage volunteer workforce planning and recruitment;
- encourage flexibility and inclusiveness in brigades;
- support local recruitment; and
- attract more young people to become volunteers.

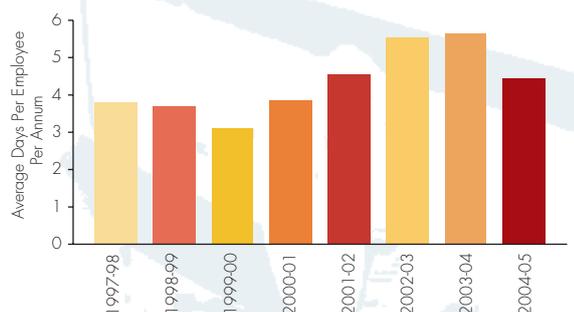
A new recruitment program for Trainee Firefighters was completed during the year resulting in 12 new Trainee Firefighters being appointed from 30 June 2005. This program has again provided us with the opportunity to review and improve on our recruitment processes. Whilst some improvements have already been made, a thorough review will be conducted in the new financial year.

The University of Tasmania has been engaged to undertake a review of the Trainee Firefighter physical fitness standards to ensure that the standards reflect the requirements of the work carried out by firefighters. The review will help ensure that the standards are non-discriminatory and meet occupational health and safety requirements. A report will be received from the University in early 2005-06.

#### DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP

The TFS State Headquarters hosted a Chinese migrant in late June for two weeks work experience as part of the State Service Work Placement Program. The program is designed to assist new migrants and humanitarian entrants to the State to gain experience in an Australian work culture. TFS also benefits from this arrangement by staff learning about working with people from diverse cultures.

Average Sick Days Per Employee





## OBJECTIVE 2

To have systems and strategies that enable our people to be productive in the workplace.

### ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND JOB DESIGN

A project to review all TFS Statements of Duty commenced in 2004-05. The aim of this project is to introduce consistent work descriptions, language and format across organisational roles wherever practical. This project will be completed in 2005-06.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Reviews have been undertaken of the operational and community fire safety career streams within TFS. Changes have been made to facilitate succession management and organisational flexibility.

The use of personal development plans for ongoing career development has been expanded across both operational and non-operational work areas as part of the Workplace Feedback System trial. The aim is for all employees to have personal development plans in place to enable ongoing career and personal development.

### TRAINING

#### Strategic Learning Review Implementation

The Strategic Learning Review was set up in the 2002-03 financial year to establish a structure within the TFS for the efficient management of training, learning and personal development for all staff. The main recommendations of this review have been implemented in 2004-05 including the establishment of the Development and Learning Group to oversee the development and maintenance of a whole of service training plan.

The position of Co-ordinator, Learning Systems was created to support training and development across the TFS. It coordinates the strategic development of TFS training policy and systems in partnership with divisional senior managers.

Volunteer training support has been enhanced with the addition of a District Officer for the North/North-West. Career training support now includes a District Officer for Development and Learning in each of the three regions with a Station Officer assisting in both the South and North/North-West.

As an accredited Registered Training Organisation the TFS was audited by the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority in 2004-05. The audit confirmed that the TFS met all the required Australian Qualifications Training Framework (AQTF) standard to the required level.



"Dedicated", The Advocate

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION

### Leadership and Management Development

The TFS focus on leadership and management development has continued in 2004-05. During this period:

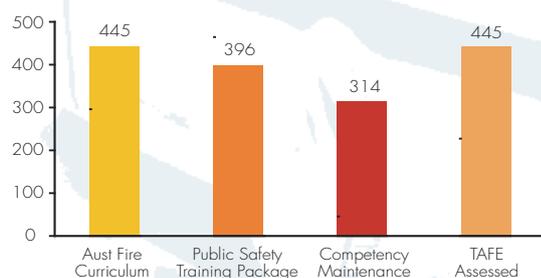
- The TFS has participated in the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) Leadership Profiles Project. The aim of the project is to design and develop a national fire industry Leadership Capability Framework for agencies to adapt and use to assist with leadership development within the fire sector.
- Launceston Fire Brigade ran a two-day Leadership Workshop for brigade management.
- One officer commenced the AFAC Executive Leadership Program which leads to a Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership and is a pathway for graduates to undertake the Masters of Emergency Management at Charles Sturt University.
- Two officers completed the AFAC Executive Development Program (EDP) which leads to a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management and four members completed the AFAC Volunteer Leadership Program. These programs are all run through the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly, NSW.
- Senior managers attended OH&S Responsible Officer Training to assist them in undertaking their "Duty of Care" and legal responsibilities in relation to the *Occupation Health and Safety Act 1995* in their workplaces.
- Three members were enrolled in the Public Sector Management Course leading to a Graduate Certificate in Management.
- One officer received a Masters degree in Public Management from Flinders University.

### Career Training

- A firefighter recruit course commenced on 30 June 2005. This will be the first recruit course conducted entirely under the Public Safety Training Package and has required considerable preparation.

- FireComm completed the preparation of learning and assessment documentation for the Certificate III, IV and Diploma in Fire Communications. Mapping of the current competencies has commenced and will be completed in 2005. All current and future Communications Officers will have the opportunity in 2005 to attain these qualifications.
- With the rollout of the equipment made available through the Commonwealth CBREP (Chemical, Biological and Radiological Enhancement Program) finalised in July 2004, career brigades have focused on upgrading CBR skills.
- The TFS recently embarked on a multi-agency Category 2 Urban Search and Rescue (Undertake Structural Collapse) course. The course exercise, held in NSW, was over a 42 hour continuous period. 20 TFS personnel and four Tasmanian Ambulance Service paramedics completed the training.
- Firefighter exchanges and competitions continued as valuable learning tools with two members on exchange this year.
- Two Leading Firefighter and Senior Station Officer assessment blocks were held last year. This translated into 26 promotions.
- A number of exercises were conducted to learn and test practical skills in preparation for the 2004-05 fire season. An example of this was exercise "Flaming Sparrow" which was a field exercise for a multi crew response to a bushfire in the urban interface on a day of high fire danger.

Skills Aquisition by Career Members



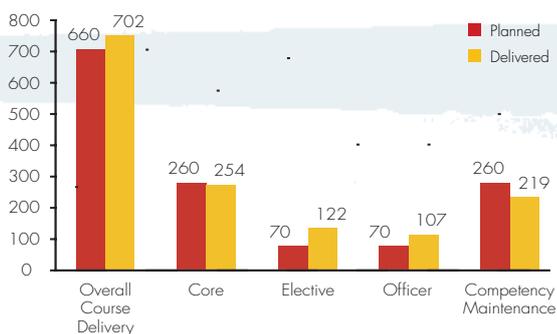


### Volunteer Development

The TFS offers all our volunteers the opportunity to gain nationally recognised Statements of Attainment through training and assessment under the Public Safety Training Package. 3,288 volunteer members achieved Statements of Attainment through the attendance at courses and successful assessment against relevant competencies.

Progress against the 2004-05 Training Plan is illustrated below.

**Volunteer Training Course Delivery**



A significant aspect of the new approach to training through the PSTP is the emphasis of practical on the job training and assessment. This training approach is taken wherever possible rather than classroom training.

### Non-Operational Training

TFS has facilitated the further learning and development for a wide range of its non-operational staff.

- TasFire Equipment officers completed the requirements for the Certificate III in Asset Maintenance and two TasFire Equipment administrative staff members received their Certificate IV in Business.
- Community Education staff continued to participate in their professional development program, underpinned by divisional induction training for all new staff. In addition, Community Education consultants continued to work towards the attainment of PSTP units of competence and other industry competencies and qualifications.
- Significant "action learning" projects have been undertaken by members such as the development of the Intranet "TFS Online", the AIRS call centre and review and redevelopment of large databases and systems.
- Engineering Services staff increased their knowledge and skills in, appliance fabrication and maintenance and auto electrics with members gaining the following qualifications:
  - Certificate IV in Engineering (DLI Cert 7)
  - Certificate III Auto Electrician

"Training", The Advocate



STATE FIRE COMMISSION



WORKPLACE FEEDBACK AND RECOGNITION

Workplace Feedback Systems

The implementation of a Workplace Feedback System has progressed with the start of a trial involving 25% of career members in operations and divisions. The aims of the system are to encourage open and skilful communication about issues and performance, and to enable planned development for all members. The outcomes of the trial will determine the nature of the system that will be implemented across career members in 2006-07.

AWARDS AND MEDALS

Australian Fire Service Medal

The following members were awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2004-05

Andrew Charles Taylor

Andrew Taylor served with the Temco Brigade between 1983 and 1985 before joining the George Town Fire Brigade in June 1985 as a volunteer firefighter. In July 1999 he was elected to his current position as the Brigade Chief of George Town Brigade.

Andrew has been a Fire Permit Officer since 1999 and serves on the Dalrymple Fire Management Committee, Volunteer Training Advisory Committee and Central Health and Safety Committee.

Andrew is currently the President of the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association and was awarded the National Medal in 1998.

Ross Gerard Stokman

Ross Stokman joined Richmond Fire Brigade in 1985 as a volunteer firefighter. He was promoted to his current position of Brigade Chief of the Richmond Brigade in 1986. Having now served 18 years as Brigade Chief he is one of TFS' longest serving volunteer officers.

Ross has participated in numerous task forces within Tasmania and interstate and has been a fire permit officer since 1993. His leadership and commitment to his brigade and TFS is exemplary. Ross was awarded the National Medal in 2000.



L-R: Andrew Taylor, Ross Stokman and Mike Brown

Michael Wayne Brown

Michael Brown commenced employment as a Cadet Fire Control Officer with the Rural Fires Board in 1977.

He has served in a number of positions in the TFS over his career in both training and operations where he has gained wide experience. Michael was instrumental in the introduction of personal protective clothing systems and overseeing the TFS capability to undertake urban search and rescue.

Michael has been the Brigade Chief of Launceston Fire Brigade since 1995 and was recently appointed the Regional Chief, North. He is a valued member of the Executive Management Team and is the Chair of a number of standing committees. He was awarded the National Medal in 1992 and the Clasp to the Medal in 2002.



## OBJECTIVE 3

To have a working environment that supports our people and the delivery of our services.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

2004-05 saw the TFS continue to develop its safety systems. A desk-top external audit took place in late 2004. The focus of the audit was two-fold; firstly to measure to what extent TFS systems had improved since the previous audit in 2001 and secondly to identify what areas still required further attention. The audit revealed that TFS had moved forward significantly but that there are still a number of areas that need improvement. The outstanding areas will form an integral part of the 2005-2006 OH&S management plan.

Some of the initiatives undertaken in 2004-05 include:

- Delivery of manual handling training. Manual handling injuries are the most frequently occurring form of injury. Externally trained manual handling "experts" have begun the process of providing training to all current members. The majority of career firefighters have received the training as well as a number of the support divisions. The training package will be offered to all existing volunteer firefighters. The package has also been included in current training systems in order to reach future members.
- The progressive formation of safety committees that will assist in promoting both OH&S systems and safe behaviour across the State.
- Increasing the number of trained Employee Safety Representatives (ESR's). TFS is establishing ESR's for both the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association. Once elected and trained they will be in a position to assist their members and the TFS to address local safety issues.

Other areas where significant progress has been made to improve safety in the workplace include; future appliance designs, database development, contractor management, risk assessment procedures and work at height processes. All of these initiatives will assist in making the TFS a safer place to work in the years to come.

### Workers Compensation

TFS Workers Compensation performance continues to improve. It is pleasing to see the number of injuries requiring some form of medical treatment dramatically decreasing each year. This year's total of 52 new claims is almost half the number of claims TFS had six years ago. One of the primary reasons for this reduction has been the TFS's ongoing commitment to implementing safety systems across the organisation.

Workers Compensation Claims



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### MANAGING DIVERSITY

The TFS Resolution Procedure was presented at the 2005 Regional Conferences. The purpose of the Resolution Procedure is to provide guidance to members and managers resolving issues in the workplace. The process underpins the effective operation of the *Policy for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination* and will be fully implemented in 2005-06.

Internal training in diversity, harassment and discrimination was provided to Community Education staff. Twenty one members attended an external workshop, Workplace Diversity: A Workshop for Managers and Supervisors. Seven members (volunteer, career and management ) attended the National Women in Firefighting Forum.

TFS members were invited to participate in a national web-based survey to gather information that will help fire services broaden their diversity. It was an initiative of the Diversity in Fire Services Research Program in the Centre for Learning and Social Transformation at the University of Western Sydney.

There were no claims for harassment or discrimination lodged with the Anti-Discrimination Commission by TFS members in 2004-05.

### INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

A new Communication Framework was developed during 2004-05 aiming to provide relevant information to members in a timely manner. A new communication tool is being trialled. The tool delivers strategic information from the Chief Officer as well as local information of significance to members on a monthly basis.

The Volunteer Handbook was reviewed and re-issued to all volunteer brigades in February 2005. The new version provides even more information and guidance to brigades about a wide range of volunteer management issues.

The Volunteer State Consultative Committee initiated a project to review the administrative paperwork that brigades currently handle. The aim is to ease the burden in this area by rationalising and enhancing several brigade forms. This project will be completed in 2004-05.

### TFS REGIONAL CONFERENCES

A change from an annual State Conference to annually alternating Regional Conferences and State Conferences started in 2005. It is hoped that this alternating system will provide a greater opportunity for members to examine regional issues on a regular basis

Regional Conferences were held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie with a total of approximately 650 members attending the three events.



Ian Gabites



The conferences featured presentations by representatives from the South Australian Country Fire Service on the Eyre Peninsula fires as well as presentations on a wide range of issues such as pre-incident planning, inter-agency protocols and aviation rescue and firefighting.

## COMPETITIONS

The Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association (TFBCA) held five competitions around the State with the Open title being hosted by the Franklin Fire Brigade and the State titles being hosted by Ulverstone Fire Brigade. The 2004 competition season was very successful with Burnie and Somerset senior teams back from a break in competition and our strongest field of junior teams for many years. The competition was fierce throughout the five rounds and culminated with the State Championships, which were won by Franklin in the seniors. Devonport won the under 17's and Hobart the under 14's in their first year of competition.

TFS also hosted open championships at Devonport where brigades from CFA competed and delegates from Country Fire Authority, Victoria (CFA) and New South Wales Fire Brigades (NSWFB) attended.

The Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association conducts competitions using contemporary firefighting equipment in a number of events simulating operational activities. This year the 35th annual competitions were held at Risdon Vale. Bowen Brigade won the senior event with Richmond successful in the junior section.

A review of competitions is steadily progressing and the proposed constitution for one body to preside over all competitions in Tasmania is expected to be endorsed in 2005-06.

"High pressure", The Advocate



## PLANNED OUTCOMES/ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

- Complete and evaluate the Workplace Feedback System trial for career members. Design a system to implement in 2006-07.
- Implement the harassment and discrimination policy and resolution process.
- Develop a plan for the management of diversity.

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### GOAL STATEMENT

To manage our financial, information and physical resources effectively and efficiently.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a flexible communications system that meets the needs of our end users.
2. To provide adequate protection for our resources.
3. To provide adequate funding to ensure the SFC is able to achieve its corporate objectives.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To provide a flexible communications system that meets the needs of our end users.

Significant emphasis was placed on upgrading much of the SFC's software and hardware in order to better meet the needs of our end users. Data lines were installed in selected incident management sites and additional hardware configured to allow fast deployment of computers with good access to the TFS network at these sites.

A major emphasis was placed on populating the intranet site with policy and administrative instructions as well as standard operating procedures. Almost half of the information previously not accessible to volunteers has now been transferred to the intranet and is readily available to TFS members.

Ongoing performance analysis and then incremental adjustments have seen marked improvement for coverage of both radio and paging systems in the far North-East of the State and in the St Helens area in particular.



Bagdad Fire Station, Tony Kenno



## OBJECTIVE 2

### Provide adequate protection for our resources.

Planned maintenance, as well as appliance replacement strategies, were refined during 2004-05. The increased number of fabricated appliances commissioned since the establishment of the program has led to savings to the TFS in respect to both time and money due to a reduction in repairs and maintenance costs. The formulation of an appliance specific servicing program tailored to suit individual appliance categories, rather than a one program fits all approach has also led to efficiencies in both time and cost. The SFC is in its first year of its first five year rolling annual fire appliance replacement program, subsequently commissioning 55 new light tankers to date, replacing one third of the light tanker fleet.

An annual maintenance program for fire stations and buildings was developed in the latter part of the financial year. Some work was still to be done at year's end prior to the program being implemented.

The annual uniform and protective clothing replacement program again experienced delays in supply and this continued to frustrate efforts to achieve an effective Statewide result. Overall the majority of the uniform and protective clothing budget was committed by year's end with orders expected to be filled early in the new financial year.

The SFC remains committed to formalised and documented disaster recovery plans and the development of these plans will continue next financial year. Once the disaster recovery plans have been completed a risk management framework will be developed.

## OBJECTIVE 3

### Provide adequate funding to ensure the SFC is able to achieve its corporate objectives.

The SFC worked closely with the State Government in identifying its long term funding requirements and objectives. As a result, the SFC's five year capital programs for the fire appliance replacement and fabrication program were reviewed and the fire station building program was developed. In addition a number of funding options were also developed and considered.

The SFC continued to monitor both revenue and expenditure patterns and budgets throughout the year and overall the SFC recorded a healthy operating surplus for the financial year.

A project methodology format was developed to ensure that project plans identify all resource requirements prior to them being approved.



STATE FIRE COMMISSION



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

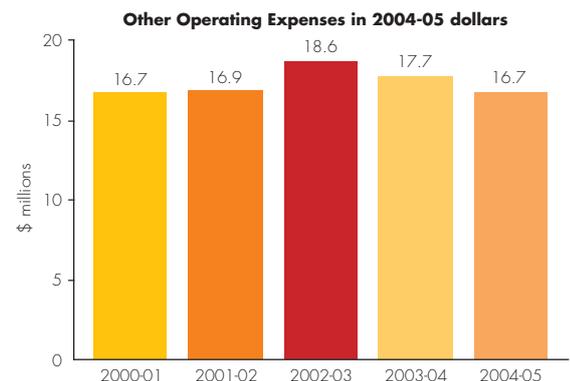
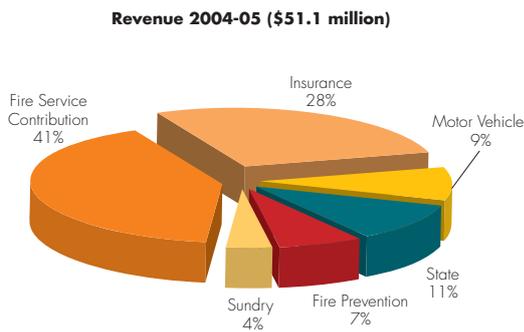
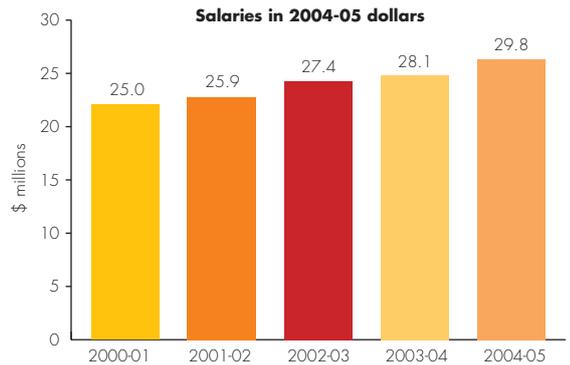
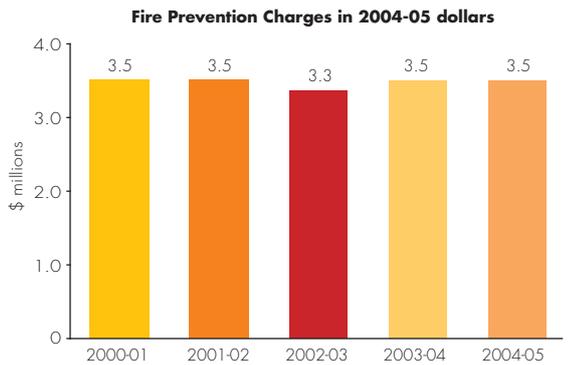
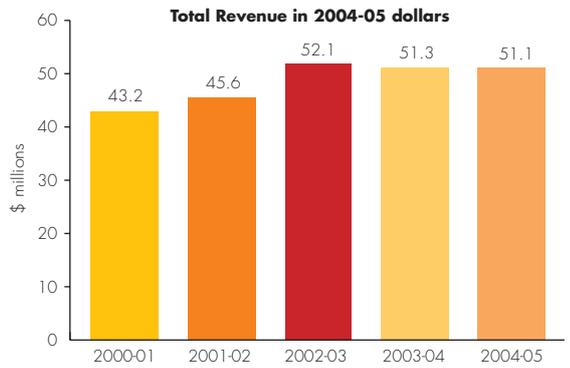
The Net Surplus for the SFC for 2004-05 was \$4.6 million, compared to \$5.3 million for 2003-04, a decrease of \$0.7 million.

Revenue from Ordinary Activities for the twelve months to June 2005 was \$51.1 million compared to \$49.7 million for the same period last financial year. The major positive variations related to the Fire Service Contribution, the Insurance Fire Levy and the State Government Contribution which increased by \$0.5, \$0.4 and \$0.8 million respectively. A decline in Sundry Revenue of \$0.2 million was also recorded.

Expenses from Ordinary Activities for the twelve months to June 2005 were \$46.5 million compared to \$44.4 million for the same period last financial year. The major variation related to Salaries which increased by \$2.6 million as a result of new enterprise bargaining agreements. An additional \$0.2 million was spent on Protective Clothing and Uniforms in 2004-05. Expenditure on Operation and Repairs and Maintenance declined by \$0.4 million and \$0.2 million respectively due in part to a relatively quiet fire season and upgraded fire appliances. The cost of insurance also fell in 2004-05 by \$0.4 million.

Net Assets for 2004-05 totaled \$65.1 million as compared to \$58.9 million for 2003-04, an increase of \$6.2 million.

An overview of the major revenue sources is detailed below.

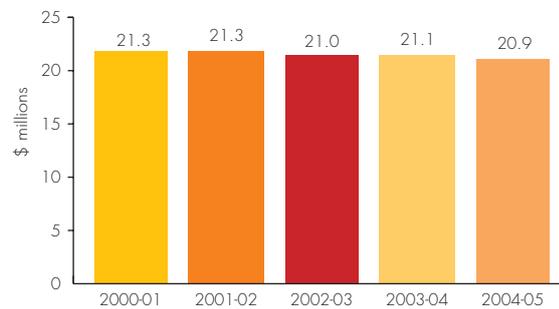


## FIRE SERVICE CONTRIBUTION

The Fire Service Contribution is collected by local councils, on a fee for service basis, on behalf of the SFC. Fire Service Contributions on properties for 2004-05 amounted to \$20.9 million and represented 41 per cent of total revenue. The levels of contribution payable by ratepayers vary throughout the State according to whether the ratepayer is in an urban or country area. However, the objective of the demand on ratepayers is to ensure that an equitable contribution is applied to each ratepayer, based on the assessed annual value of their respective urban or country properties and the level of fire protection provided. Local authorities are paid a four per cent collection fee by the SFC and this amounted to \$841,000 in 2004-05.



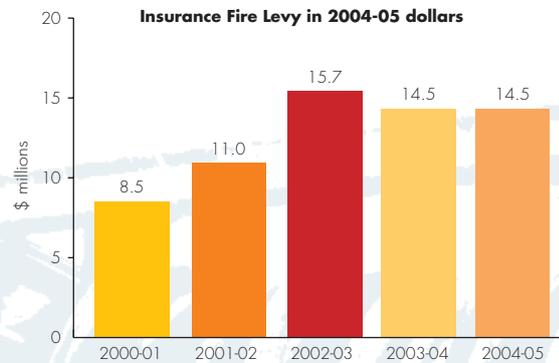
Fire Service Contribution in 2004-05 dollars



## INSURANCE FIRE LEVY

Insurance companies are responsible for the collection of the Insurance Fire Levy. Collections for 2004-05 were \$14.5 million which equated to 28 per cent of total revenue. These funds were applied directly to both operating costs and the appliance replacement program. The contribution rate is an amount equal to two per cent of gross premium income on marine cargo insurance, 14 per cent on aviation hull insurance and 28 per cent of gross premium income on all other prescribed classes of insurance.

Insurance Fire Levy in 2004-05 dollars

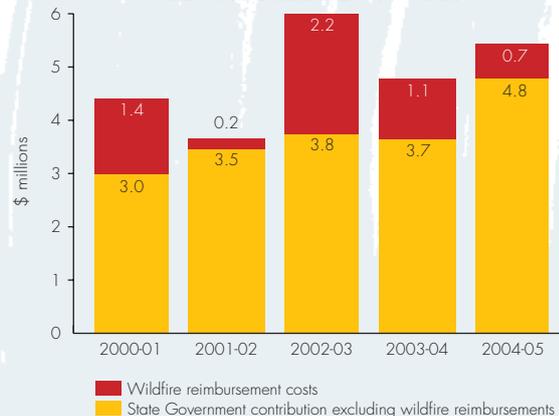


## STATE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION

The Treasurer must pay to the SFC, out of money appropriated by the Parliament for the purpose, such amount as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards defraying the operating costs of the SFC. The contribution in 2004-05 was \$5.5 million and represented 11 per cent of the total revenue of the Service for 2004-05.

The cost of fighting wildfires is partly funded by the State Government. From 1 July 1987, these costs have been funded by the State Government in the same year in which the expenditure was incurred. By arrangement with the Department of Treasury and Finance, the SFC is required to meet the first \$35,000 for wildfire fighting costs and the State Government meets the remainder. In 2004-05, the State Government reimbursed the SFC \$0.6 million and this amount is included as part of the total State Government Contribution of \$5.5 million. An additional \$2 million was provided to assist the TFS with its capital replacement program.

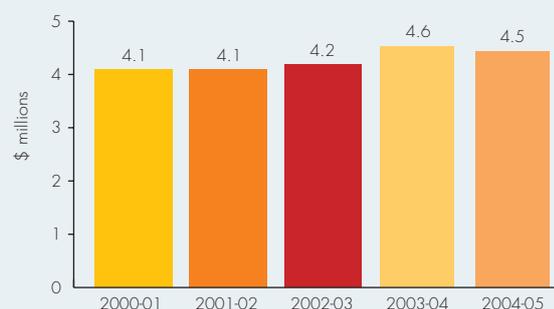
State Contribution in 2004-05 dollars



## MOTOR VEHICLE FIRE LEVY

The motor vehicle levy contribution of \$4.5 million collected by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources represents nine per cent of total revenue. The general levy for motor vehicles was \$13, effective from 1 July 2003 and for pensioners \$9 per vehicle, effective from 1 July 2003. Motor cycles are excluded.

Motor Vehicle Fire Levy in 2004-05 dollars



## STATE FIRE COMMISSION



### COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION

The Commonwealth Government provided a small contribution of \$322,000 which was less than one per cent of the total revenue for 2004-05. The major purpose of this contribution is to meet the costs associated with providing fire prevention and protection to Commonwealth Government buildings and property in Tasmania. As part of the National Aerial Firefighting strategy Tasmania also received \$130,500 from the Commonwealth (DOTARS) through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre towards the standing charges of a medium capacity helicopter assigned to Tasmania during Jan/Feb. The Commonwealth also provided \$30,000 to assist in maintaining chemical, biological and radiation equipment on loan to the State. As part of the Bushfire Mitigation program the SFC was also provided with \$13,000 from the Commonwealth Government.

### FIRE PREVENTION CHARGES

The SFC generates revenue through its community fire safety activities including the sale and servicing of fire safety equipment, commercial training, alarm rentals, inspection fees and avoidable false alarm fees. Revenue raised in 2004-05 was \$3.5 million or seven per cent of total revenue.

### SUNDRY INCOME

Sundry income is derived from a number of sources including profit on sale of non-current assets, donations, interest received, rent and other sundry sources. Revenue raised in 2004-05 was \$1.9 million or four per cent of total revenue.

## PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### BUILDING PROGRAM

Development of the Cambridge Training Complex commenced in 2004-05. This major project will, when completed, provide significant and much needed training opportunities for not only career and volunteer firefighters but also for the general public. The project is expected to be opened in early 2005-06.

A major purchase of land and building infrastructure was made in 2004-05 at Burnie. The building, when refurbished, will become the new North West Regional Headquarters. The site, which adjoins the TFS North West Engineering Services workshops, will accommodate Regional Management, Training, Communications and Community Fire Safety.

During 2004-05 the new Regional Management Headquarters at the Youngtown complex, along with the upgrading of warehousing facilities for Engineering Services and TasFire Equipment, was completed. In addition Pioneer Station upgrade was completed, Waratah Station and land at Rowella were acquired and number of smaller station upgrades were completed.

### ENGINEERING SERVICES

#### Appliance replacement strategy

The first year of the five year appliance replacement program commenced in 2004-05 with a target of fabricating 55 light tankers. The remaining four years of the program will see the fabrication and commissioning of an additional 90 appliances, leading to the decommissioning of all petrol single cab appliances from service.

#### Appliance production

The fabrication of 55 light tankers commenced in late 2004 and by 30 June 2005 a total of 27 light tankers had been completed with a further 28 light tankers anticipated to be completed by early August 2005. The completion of the project within a 9 month timeframe will allow future build programs to commence early, each financial year, and be completed in that financial year.

The completion of the heavy pumper program, the acquisition of a third heavy pumper appliance for commissioning in the South of the State, as well as the



completion of the third refurbished aerial appliance, for use on the North West Coast occurred in 2004-05. A medium Tanker user group was convened to discuss changes to the next generation medium tanker appliance which is scheduled for production in early 2005-06.

## COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

During 2004-05, Communications Services completed the following projects:

### Radio Site Infrastructure Upgrade:

- A new radio site telemetry system was installed at 12 sites across the State. This monitors radio site performance and automatically logs and reports critical system parameters and systems faults. It also enables technical management of system infrastructure to be proactive as well as ensuring most faults are rectified before system failure occurs. To be completed in 2005-06.
- An additional paging transmitter was installed at St Helens to improve coverage and enhance response for both the TFS and Tasmanian Ambulance Service.
- A new radio site was established on Mt Horror (near Scottsdale) by a local community group using Commonwealth funding. The TFS was able to make use of this facility which replaced shared facility with Forestry Tasmania. A significant improvement in radio and pager coverage was achieved as a result of the additional height of the new facility.
- Fire alarm monitoring systems were upgraded at 20 fire stations around the State with the benefit of improving response and enabling the TFS to maintain a uniform response for all monitored fire alarms.
- TFS commenced trials for fire alarm monitoring over the internet (IP) for government buildings. If successful it has the potential to reduce the cost to government for fixed rentals of up to one million dollars per year.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

The Windows 2003 computer server upgrades continued this year with only a few older servers remaining. A new server was installed to replace the main computer aided dispatch server. The older server will become a test server for testing new releases of software and additions to the intranet site. Data lines were installed in selected incident management sites and additional hardware configured to allow fast deployment of computers with good access to the TFS network at these sites. A large desktop computer deployment is planned for next financial year with almost half of the hardware being replaced.

Significant enhancements were made to the TFS Internet and Intranet sites (*TFS Online*). The Current Bushfire Map on the internet was upgraded to provide more information to members and the public. New Community Fire Safety information in regard to "Boating Information" and "Caught in bushfire information" was also included on the web site. An intranet bookshelf was commissioned in 2004-05 and since then significant information has been included for TFS members. The information can be accessed anywhere, through the internet, and includes among other things SFC policies, TFS administrative instructions and standard operating procedures. Operational reports can also be accessed through the intranet and planning is well underway to provide TFS brigades with direct online access to TFS Online.



## PLANNED OUTCOMES/ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

- Provide adequate and sustainable resources to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under the *Fire Service Act 1979*.
- Replace fire appliances that do not have crew havens and/or are petrol-powered.
- Develop a Key Risk Register that will assist the Commission to manage its risks and enable it to allocate resources to areas considered vulnerable or under resourced.
- Develop a more interactive and extensive internet/intranet/extranet service.

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION

### STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The State Fire Management Council is established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. The Council's primary role is to develop a State Vegetation Fire Management Policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning. The Council comprises:

- **Chairperson nominated by the Minister** - Stephen Geard
- **Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service** - John Gledhill
- **Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation** - Evan Rolley
- **General Manager of National Parks and Wildlife** - Peter Mooney
- **Nominee of the Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service** - Peter Alexander
- **Nominee of the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation** - Alen Slijepcevic
- **Nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife** - Tony Blanks
- **Nominee of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association** - Lyndley Chopping
- **Nominee of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania** - Greg Hickey
- **Nominee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania** - Rod Sweetnam

#### 2004-2005 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

As Chairman of the State Fire Management Council I am pleased to report on the activities of the Council which met four times in the year ended 30 June 2005.

A new fire permit system has been put into place, based on the review conducted by the Council last year.

The Council continues to have input into the development of the Environmental Protection Policy (Air Quality) and the related State Air Quality Strategy as they both relate to fire management.

At the request of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Council has put quite a lot of effort into developing a statewide policy on forest fire management as required by the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (Attachment 10, paragraph 7).

Other matters considered by the Council include the issue of burning green waste at disposal sites and the provision and insurance of heavy machinery for fire fighting.

During the year, the Council lost Alen Slijepcevic (one of Forestry Tasmania representatives) due to his move interstate and we have been advised of the impending retirement of our long serving Secretary, John Thomson. I take this opportunity to thank Alen and John for their input.



S D Geard, **Chairman**  
14 August 2005



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2004-05

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05

The accompanying financial statements, including notes to accounts, are provided to disclose activities funded both within and outside the Public Account. These statements have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

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<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
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## CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the State Fire Commission have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979* from proper accounts and records.

In the opinion of the Commissioners of the State Fire Commission;

- the financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results and cash flows for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and the statement of affairs at 30 June 2005 of the State Fire Commission;
- the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, and
- at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Commission will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

J. B. Gledhill BSc, FIFire E, AFSM  
CHIEF OFFICER

W. K. Sawford BEc  
COMMISSION MEMBER

21 September 2005

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>			
Fire Service Contribution	1(r)	20,940	20,449
Insurance Fire Levy	1(q)	14,498	14,144
State Government Contribution	9	5,453	4,741
Motor Vehicle Fire Levy	1(s)	4,533	4,545
Fire Prevention Charges	10	3,459	3,420
Sundry Revenue	11	1,885	2,108
Commonwealth Government Contribution	9	322	278
<b>Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>51,090</b>	<b>49,685</b>
<b>EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>			
Salaries, Wages and Related Expenses	1(j), 12	29,780	27,172
Public Relations, Subscriptions and Consultants	13	801	919
Training and Education	578	539	
Operations Expenses	14	4,975	5,380
Protective Clothing and Uniforms	15	982	755
Depreciation	6	3,974	3,696
Financial and Other Expenses	16	1,866	1,910
Insurance		1,085	1,441
Borrowing Costs	17	290	291
Repairs and Maintenance	18	1,393	1,578
Equipment under \$1,000	19	744	740
<b>Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>46,468</b>	<b>44,422</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	20	<b>4,622</b>	<b>5,264</b>
<b>NON-OWNER CHANGES IN EQUITY</b>			
Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve due to revaluation of non-current assets	21	1,550	-
<b>Total change in Equity from Non-Owner related Transactions</b>		<b>1,550</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total change in Equity</b>	22	<b>6,172</b>	<b>5,264</b>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash Assets	1(p),2,8,25(a)	1,109	4,485
Receivables	1(d),3,8	1,209	1,082
Other Assets	4	2,150	1,726
Inventories	1(c)	1,021	969
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>5,489</b>	<b>8,262</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Work in Progress	1(e)	4,669	5,594
Property, Plant and Equipment	1(f),1(g), 1(o),6	70,892	60,173
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>75,561</b>	<b>65,766</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>81,050</b>	<b>74,028</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank Overdraft	8, 25(a)	595	-
Payables	1(n),7,8	2,686	3,256
Provision for Long Service Leave	1(h)	542	437
Provision for Annual Leave	1(i)	2,473	2,209
Interest Bearing Liabilities	1(m),8	2,868	1,500
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>9,164</b>	<b>7,402</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for Long Service Leave	1(h)	4,955	4,498
Interest Bearing Liabilities	1(m),8	1,830	3,198
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,785</b>	<b>7,696</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>15,949</b>	<b>15,098</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>65,102</b>	<b>58,930</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Operating Surpluses	20	63,478	58,856
Reserves	21	1,624	74
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	22	<b>65,102</b>	<b>58,930</b>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Note	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash Receipts from Ordinary Activities		48,662	48,606
Cash Payments from Ordinary Activities		(40,407)	(40,125)
Interest Paid		(290)	(291)
Interest Received		97	92
<b>Net Cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	25(b)	<u>8,062</u>	<u>8,282</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment		2,263	777
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		(14,296)	(8,039)
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>		<u>(12,033)</u>	<u>(7,262)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of loan		(1,500)	(1,368)
Proceeds from loan		1,500	1,368
<b>Net Cash used in Financing Activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		(3,971)	1,019
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Period		4,484	3,465
<b>Cash at the End of the Financial Period</b>	25(a)	<u>514</u>	<u>4,484</u>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

### 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Basis of Financial Statements

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. It has been prepared on the basis of historical costs except for the revaluation of land and buildings, and does not take into account changing money values. Accounting policies used are consistent with those of the prior year.

#### (b) System of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting that brings to account known assets and liabilities at balance date. All amounts shown in the financial statements are in thousands of dollars. The system of accounting complies with the requirements of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

#### (c) Inventories

Consumable stores are expensed at the time of purchase. Stock on hand is valued at average cost.

#### (d) Receivables

Trade receivables are carried at amounts due. The collectability of debts is assessed at year-end and a specific provision is made for any doubtful accounts. In addition a general provision of \$10,000 (0.8% of debtors outstanding) is maintained. The carrying amount of trade receivables approximates net fair value.

#### (e) Work in Progress

Capital Work in Progress is valued at the cost of material, labour and labour oncosts for work to date.

#### (f) Land and Buildings

Freehold land and buildings are valued at fair value. Cost is considered to be the best measure of fair value for recently purchased property. Where available, in years subsequent to acquisition, the Valuer-General's valuation or a commercial valuation is used. The Valuer-General progressively revalues land and buildings in a systematic manner, which is both independent and consistent.

On revaluation, the Provision for Depreciation accounts are transferred to the related asset accounts. The assets are then depreciated over their estimated remaining useful lives using their revalued amount as the base.

When a class of assets is revalued upwards, that part of the revaluation increment that reverses previously expensed revaluation decrements for that class of assets is treated as revenue, and any excess is credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

When a class of assets is revalued downwards, that part of the revaluation decrement that reverses a credit balance in the Asset Revaluation Reserve relating to that class of assets is debited to the Reserve, and any excess decrement is expensed.

During the year ended 30 June 2005, Land was revalued upwards by \$1,549,409 and this revaluation increment was credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Buildings were also revalued upwards, by \$550,829, and this revaluation increment was credited to Sundry

Income to reverse previously expensed revaluation decrements in this asset class.

#### (g) Fire Appliances, Passenger Vehicles and Plant and Equipment

Internal expenses incurred in the fabrication of Fire Appliances and the construction of Radio and Communications Equipment are capitalised.

Passenger vehicles are valued at cost.

Plant and Equipment is at cost and is comprised of Fire Fighting Equipment, Workshop and Other Equipment, Radio and Communications Equipment, Office Furniture and Equipment and Computer Equipment.

Items of Plant and Equipment with a purchase price of less than \$1,000 are expensed at time of purchase. Items of Plant and Equipment with a cost of \$1,000 or more are shown at cost less depreciation and are written off over their expected useful life to the Commission on a straight line basis. Equipment is not depreciated until full operational status is attained.

Costs incurred in relation to plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisitions are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits, in excess of the originally assessed performance of the assets will flow to the Commission in future years. Where these costs represent separate components they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their useful lives.

#### (h) Provision for Long Service Leave

Provision for Long Service Leave is made for all employees. No cash reserve has been set aside to meet commitments from the Provision for Long Service Leave and commitments will be met as they fall due from revenue at that time.

The liability is the sum of the existing entitlements and an estimate of future entitlements expected to arise from service completed at 30 June.

In determining the liability for expected future entitlements, consideration has been given to known future increases in wage and salary rates, and experiences with staff separations. Related on-costs have been included in the liability. Estimated future accrued leave has been discounted using the rates applied to national government securities at balance date, which best match the terms of maturity of the related liabilities. The Current Provision (\$541,447 in 2005 and \$437,351 in 2004) is defined as the expected expense for the forthcoming financial year, based on recent experience of leave taken, and the balance of the provision is treated as the Non-Current Provision (\$4,955,230 in 2005 and \$4,497,653 in 2004).

#### (i) Provision for Annual Leave

The provision represents employee entitlements due and accrued as at 30 June 2005. The provision has been calculated using the remuneration rates the Commission expects to pay when the obligations are settled and includes related on-costs.

#### (j) Superannuation

The State Fire Commission incurred a superannuation expense of \$3,314,152 in 2005 and \$2,793,930 in 2004.

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

### 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

The Commission, by virtue of the *State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Act 1994*, operates the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme for employees of the State Fire Commission classified under the *Tasmanian Fire Fighting Industry Employees Award*. This is an externally managed defined benefits scheme. It was underfunded by \$4,946,432 at the last comprehensive actuarial review undertaken at 30 June 2003. At that time the fund had Accrued Benefits of \$52,550,983 and Net Assets of \$47,604,551. At 30 June 2004 it was underfunded by \$4,077,553 with Accrued Benefits of 57,391,011 and Net Assets of \$53,313,458. At 30 June 2005, while final figures are not available at the time of preparation of these accounts, unaudited estimates indicate that the Scheme was underfunded by \$2,763,000, with Accrued Benefits of \$60,816,000 and Net Assets of \$58,053,000. The Commission is responsible for ensuring adequate funding of the Scheme.

The Commission also makes employer superannuation contributions based as a minimum on the Commonwealth's Superannuation Guarantee rate for State Award employees. These employees may elect to have their contributions forwarded to any complying superannuation scheme. The total superannuation contribution expense comprised:

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme	2,654	2,145
Retirement Benefits Fund	567	649
Other	93	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>2,794</b>

Prior to 1 July 1986 the State Fire Commission maintained its own fully funded superannuation scheme for Commission employees who contributed to the Retirement Benefits Fund. As at 30 June 1986 the provision had accumulated to \$2,447,447 and this amount was recorded in the Commission's accounts. As at 1 July 1986 accounting for Retirement Benefits Fund Superannuation entitlements was transferred to the State Treasury. A payment representing the provision as at 30 June 1986 of \$2,447,447 was made to the State Treasury on the condition that the Government would fund the existing and future superannuation liability of Commission employees.

#### (k) Investments

The Commission conducts its investment and loan programs with the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation (Tascorp) and private investment managers.

Investments are carried at the face value of the amounts deposited. The carrying value of investments approximates the net fair value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

#### (l) Sick Leave

The Commission does not provide for sick leave. All of the Commission's sick leave is non vesting, and it is thus inappropriate to make provision for future sick leave.

The total average number of hours taken per person in 2005 was 59.2 as compared to 59.7 in 2004.

#### (m) Interest Bearing Liabilities

Loans and bank overdrafts are carried on the statement of financial position at their principal amount. Where appropriate interest expense is accrued at the contractual rate and included in "Accrued Expenses."

#### (n) Payables, Accrued Expenses and Commitments.

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Commission. The carrying amount of accounts payable approximates fair value.

#### (o) Provision for Depreciation

Items of Property, Plant and Equipment, including buildings, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

All items are depreciated using the straight line method of depreciation at the following range of rates:

Asset Class	Range of Rates
Buildings	1% to 3.3%
Motor Vehicles and Fire Appliances	4% to 20%
Plant and Equipment	6.6% to 33.3%

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

#### (p) Cash, Short Term Deposits and Bank Overdrafts

The Commission operates its own bank account and all cash transactions are recorded through this account.

Cash, short-term deposits and bank overdrafts are carried at face value of the amounts deposited or drawn. The carrying amounts of cash, short-term deposits and bank overdrafts approximates net fair value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

#### (q) Insurance Fire Levy

Contributions are received from insurance companies in respect of premium income on certain prescribed classes of insurance where the risks insured are situated in Tasmania. Contributions are received monthly with an approved lodgement return. The current insurance fire levy is 2% on marine cargo insurance, 14% on aviation hull insurance, and 28% on other classes of insurance. The first two rates were established in November 1986 and the last was increased from 14% in October 1990.

#### (r) Fire Service Contribution

Contributions are received from Local Councils through a fire service contribution raised on properties. A minimum contribution was initiated to provide additional funds to re-equip volunteer brigades. The minimum contribution was \$29 for the year ended 30 June 2005 and this was increased from \$28 in 2004.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

#### (s) Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The State Fire Commission receives income raised through a fire levy applied to all registered vehicles. This is collected by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles via the vehicle registration fee and forwarded to the State Fire Commission. The current fire levy raised through vehicle registration is \$13 per vehicle and this was last increased from \$12 in July 2003.

#### (t) Number of Employees

At 30 June the Commission had 437.3 employees (full time equivalents). Last year it had 444.9 employees.

#### (u) Impact of Adopting AASB Equivalents to IASB Standards

The State Fire Commission is transitioning its accounting policies and financial reporting from current Australian Accounting Standards to Australian equivalents of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Commission has allocated resources to assess the impact of the transition to IFRS. As the Commission has a 30 June yearend, priority has been given to considering the preparation of an opening balance sheet in accordance with AASB equivalents to IFRS as at 1 July 2004. This will form the basis of accounting for Australian equivalents of IFRS in the future, and is required when the Commission prepares its first fully IFRS compliant financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006.

Below are the areas identified that may have an impact on the Commission's financial statements and, where possible, the estimated impacts on the financial statements. The actual effects of the transition to AIFRS may differ from the estimates disclosed due to:

- Ongoing work being undertaken by Commission staff;
- Potential amendments to AIFRS and Interpretations thereof being issued by the standard-setters and IFRIC; and
- Emerging accepted practice in the interpretation and application of AIFRS and UIG Interpretations.

#### Valuation and Impairment of Non-Current Assets

Accounting Standard AASB 1 *Firsttime Adoption of Australian International Financial Reporting Standards* allows entities to decide on the valuation basis for non-current assets. Land and Buildings are currently measured on a fair value basis. Historical cost is considered to be the best measure of fair value for recently purchased property. Where available, in years subsequent to acquisition, the Valuer-General's valuation or a commercial valuation is used. Buildings are depreciated. Plant and Equipment and Motor Vehicles are recorded at written down historical cost while Fire Appliances are recorded at deemed cost, with internally-fabricated fire appliances including capitalised internal expenses. The Commission intends to maintain existing valuation bases on the adoption of Australian equivalents of IFRS and therefore does not anticipate a change in accounting policy or an adjustment to asset values.

The Commission will also be required to comply with the provisions of AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*, which

replaces the existing recoverable amounts test with a more robust impairment test. Under AASB 136, the recoverable amount of an asset is determined as the higher of net selling price and value in use. In accordance with AAS 10 *Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets*, the Commission is currently not required to apply the recoverable amounts test to its non-current assets. While the future financial effects of this change in accounting policy are expected to be minimal, reliable estimation is not yet possible because the conditions under which impairment will be assessed are not yet known.

#### Employee Benefits

Under AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*, employer sponsors are required to recognise the net surplus or deficit in their employer sponsored defined benefit funds as an asset or liability, respectively. This will result in a change in the Commission's current accounting policy which does not currently recognise the net assets/liabilities of the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme (SFCSS) (Note 1(j)). Under the new policy the Commission will be required to recognise an asset/liability of this defined benefit fund for the net surplus based on an actuarial calculation of the position of the fund. The initial adjustment on transition will be through Retained Operating Surpluses and subsequent adjustments will be to Net Surplus or Deficiency for the period.

Reliable estimation of the future financial effects of this change in accounting policy is only partly achievable because the actuarial calculations have not yet been completed for 30 June 2005, and future performance of the SFCSS and level of benefits accruing to members is currently unknown. However, it is estimated that, after adoption of the Australian equivalents of IFRS, the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2005 will include a liability for the net financial position of the SFCSS of \$2.763M, with the initial adjustment on transition at 1 July 2004 of \$4.078M debited to Retained Operating Surpluses. For the period ended 30 June 2005, the improvement in the underfunding of the Scheme of \$1.315M will be credited to Non-Operating Revenue.

The total superannuation contribution expense comprised:

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
Net Assets	58,053*	53,313
Accrued Benefits to Members	60,816*	57,391
<b>Underfunding</b>	<b>2,763*</b>	<b>4,078</b>

\*2005 numbers are unaudited estimates.

#### (v) Grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund

The Commission received a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund of \$41,525 for the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras. These cameras were ordered in May 2005 but were not received by 30 June. Consequently, this grant was not spent at 30 June, but is expected to be fully expended next year.

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>2. CASH ASSETS</b>		
Cash on hand	9	9
Cash at Bank	1,100	4,477
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,109</u>	<u>4,486</u>
<b>3. RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Debtors	1,219	1,092
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(10)	(10)
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,209</u>	<u>1,082</u>
<b>4. OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Accrued Revenue	1,501	1,126
Prepayments	649	600
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>1,726</u>
<b>5. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS</b>		
Capital Work in Progress excludes certain commitments for outstanding purchase orders and unperformed work under existing contracts. - within one year	<u>542</u>	<u>1,536</u>
	542	1,536
<b>6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Land</b>		
At Fair Value (Note 1 (f))	<u>6,671</u>	<u>5,381</u>
<b>Buildings</b>		
At Fair Value (Note 1 (f))	34,793	30,714
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,567)	(2,691)
<b>Adjusted Value</b>	<u>32,226</u>	<u>28,023</u>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
At Cost	5,085	4,835
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,689)	(3,178)
<b>Adjusted Value</b>	<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,657</u>
<b>Fire Appliances</b>		
At Cost (Note 1(g))	40,247	34,698
Accumulated Depreciation	(15,360)	(14,986)
<b>Adjusted Value</b>	<u>24,887</u>	<u>19,712</u>
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
At Cost	19,285	17,621
Accumulated Depreciation	(13,573)	(12,221)
<b>Adjusted Value</b>	<u>5,712</u>	<u>5,400</u>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Total Gross Value	106,081	93,249
Accumulated Depreciation	(35,189)	(33,076)
<b>Adjusted Value</b>	<u>70,892</u>	<u>60,173</u>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

### 6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2005

	Carrying Amount 30 June 04	Additions	Revaluations	Disposals	Depreciation	Carrying Amount 30 June 05
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at Fair Value	5,381	30	1,549	(289)	-	6,671
Buildings at Fair Value (Note 11)	28,023	4,900	551	(619)	(628)	32,227
Motor Vehicles at cost	1,657	1,814	-	(941)	(1,134)	1,396
Fire Appliances at Deemed Cost	19,712	6,067	-	(41)	(851)	24,887
Plant and Equipment at Deemed Cost	5,400	1,672	-	-	(1,361)	5,711
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>60,173</b>	<b>14,483</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>(1,890)</b>	<b>(3,974)</b>	<b>70,892</b>

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2004

	Carrying Amount 30 June 03	Additions	Revaluations	Disposals	Depreciation	Carrying Amount 30 June 04
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at Fair Value	5,225	156				5,381
Buildings at Fair Value (Note 21)	27,687	898	5		(567)	28,023
Motor Vehicles at cost	1,829	1,273		(701)	(744)	1,657
Fire Appliances at Deemed Cost	19,015	1,769		(36)	(1,036)	19,712
Plant and Equipment at Deemed Cost	5,625	1,125		(1)	(1,349)	5,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59,381</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(738)</b>	<b>(3,696)</b>	<b>60,173</b>

2005  
\$'000

2004  
\$'000

### 7. PAYABLES

Accrued Expenses	559	655
Trade Creditors	2,071	1,806
Capital Works Payables	56	795
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>3,256</b>

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

### 8. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES

The Commission's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for classes of financial assets and liabilities for 2004-05 are detailed below:

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Non Interest Bearing \$'000	Floating Interest Rate \$'000	Fixed Interest 1 year or less \$'000	Maturing Over 1 year to 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000	Market Value \$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Cash	5.62%	9	1,100	-	-	1,109	1,109
Receivables		1,209	-	-	-	1,209	1,209
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>1,218</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,318</u>	<u>2,318</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>							
Bank overdrafts	8.97%	-	595	-	-	595	595
Interest Bearing Liabilities	6.01%	-	-	2,868	1,830	4,698	4,739
Payables		2,686	-	-	-	2,686	2,686
		<u>2,686</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>2,868</u>	<u>1,830</u>	<u>7,979</u>	<u>8,020</u>

Comparative figures for 2003-04 are detailed below:

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Non Interest Bearing \$'000	Floating Interest Rate \$'000	Fixed Interest 1 year or less \$'000	Maturing Over 1 year to 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000	Market Value \$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Cash	5.41%	8	4,477	-	-	4,485	4,485
Receivables		1,082	-	-	-	1,082	1,082
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>1,090</u>	<u>4,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,567</u>	<u>5,567</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>							
Interest Bearing Liabilities	6.13%	-	-	1,500	3,198	4,698	4,706
Payables		3,256	-	-	-	3,256	3,256
		<u>3,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>3,198</u>	<u>7,954</u>	<u>7,962</u>

#### Bank Overdraft Facility

The State Fire Commission has access to an overdraft facility of \$2.5M. This bank overdraft is unsecured and subject to an annual review.

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>Overdraft Facility Details</b>		
Total Facility	2,500	2,500
Overdraft	595	-
Unused Facility	<u>1,905</u>	<u>2,500</u>

#### Credit Card Facility

The State Fire Commission has a credit card facility with a limit of \$57,000.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>8. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCLOSURES (CONTINUED)</b>		
<b>Credit Card Facility Details</b>		
Total Facility	57	33
Allocated Facility	49	33
Facility Available	8	-
<b>Loans</b>		
Since 1986, all loan raising has been arranged through the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation. All loans are recorded in Australian dollars and are unsecured. The loan amount in current liabilities comprises the portions of the loans payable within one year. The non-current loan balance represents the portion of the loans due later than one year.		
<b>Credit Risk Exposures</b>		
Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties failed to perform as contracted. The credit risk on the Commission's financial assets excluding investments, has been recognised on the Statement of Financial Position as the carrying amount, net of any provision for doubtful debts. The Commission minimises credit risk by undertaking transactions with a large number of customers and counterparties.		
<b>9. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM STATE AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS</b>		
Under section 101 of the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> the Treasurer must pay out of moneys appropriated by the Parliament, such amounts as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards the operating costs of the Commission. The Commonwealth Government pays to the Commission an annual contribution towards the operating cost of brigades. Funds provided to the Commission are detailed below:-		
<b>State Government Contributions</b>		
General Contribution	2,810	3,610
Capital Contribution	2,000	-
Wildfire Fighting Reimbursements	643	1,131
	5,453	4,741
<b>Commonwealth Government Contributions</b>		
General Contribution	148	147
Other (1)	174	131
	322	278
(1) As part of the National Aerial Firefighting strategy the Commission received \$130,500 (\$104,000 in 2003-04) from the Commonwealth Government towards the standing charges of a helicopter assigned to Tasmania during the summer months. The Commonwealth also provided \$30,000 (\$27,273 in 2003-04) to assist in maintaining chemical, biological and radiation equipment on loan to the State.		
As part of the Bushfire Mitigation Programme the State Fire Commission was also provided with \$13,000 (nil in 2003-04) from the Commonwealth Government.		
<b>10. FIRE PREVENTION CHARGES</b>		
Revenue is raised by the or services are provided. Fire Prevention Charges comprise:-		
Sale of Fire Safety Services and Equipment	1,511	1,493
Less Cost of Goods Sold	(763)	(723)
	748	770
Alarm Rental	634	603
Avoidable False Alarms	89	89
Commercial Training	1,090	1,091
Inspection Fees - TasFire Equipment	755	740
Inspection Fees - Building Safety	143	127
<b>Total</b>	3,459	3,420

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2004-05

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>11. SUNDRY REVENUE</b>		
Reimbursement by Tasmanian Ambulance Service (1)	167	163
Interest Received	97	92
Insurance Recoveries	11	106
Rent	33	71
Wildfire Fighting Reimbursements (2)	120	867
Worker's Compensation Refunds	40	122
Sale of Fixed Assets	526	115
Building Revaluation Increment	551	-
Other	340	572
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>2,108</b>
(1) Contribution for shared facilities and reimbursement for costs incurred in upgrading and maintaining the Tasmanian Ambulance Service radio network and communication centre. (Note 19)		
(2) Reimbursement from Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service for helicopter expenses and wildfire fighting.		
<b>12. SALARIES WAGES AND RELATED EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	20,940	19,457
Payroll Tax	1,633	1,526
Annual Leave	2,842	2,560
Long Service Leave	1,051	835
Superannuation	3,314	2,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,780</b>	<b>27,172</b>
<b>13. PUBLIC RELATIONS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CONSULTANTS</b>		
Advertising	356	451
Grants and Donations	22	31
Functions	119	123
Professional Fees	96	76
Subscriptions	184	180
Other	24	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>14. OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>		
Printing and Stationery	195	169
Consumables	223	272
Electricity	380	354
Hire of Equipment	24	196
Office Cleaning	133	132
Municipal Rates	295	122
Rental of Premises	22	12
Wildfire Fighting Equipment Hire	42	139
Motor Vehicle Expenses	933	783
Removal Expenses	8	4
Travel Expenses	758	1,200
Communication Expenses	1,142	1,071
Computer Expenses	621	790
Fire Suppression & Control	26	39
Other	173	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>5,380</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>15. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS</b>		
Protective Clothing	639	422
Uniforms	343	333
<b>Total</b>	<u>982</u>	<u>755</u>
<b>16. FINANCIAL AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
Audit Fees	28	23
Fringe Benefits Tax	116	118
Local Government Collection Fees	841	774
Pensioner Rebates (Municipal)	622	615
Pensioner Rebates (Transport)	179	274
Stock Expenses and Write Offs	17	27
Other	63	79
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,866</u>	<u>1,910</u>
<b>17. BORROWING COSTS</b>		
Interest on Bank Overdraft	2	7
Interest on Capital Debt	288	284
<b>Total</b>	<u>290</u>	<u>291</u>
<b>18. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE</b>		
Land and Buildings	494	447
Motor Vehicles	655	841
Fire Fighting Equipment	118	102
Communication Expenses	68	122
Office Furniture	14	22
Workshop Equipment	33	28
Computer Equipment	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,393</u>	<u>1,578</u>
<b>19. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES UNDER \$1,000</b>		
Computer Equipment	34	27
Fire Fighting Equipment	369	253
Office Furniture and Related Equipment	99	86
Communication Expenses	107	132
Tasmanian Ambulance Service Communications Equipment (Note 11)	44	129
Workshop Equipment	77	88
Other	14	25
<b>Total</b>	<u>744</u>	<u>740</u>
<b>20. RETAINED OPERATING SURPLUSES</b>		
Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of the year	58,856	53,592
Net Surplus for year	4,622	5,264
Transfers between Reserves and Retained Operating Surplus	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>63,478</u>	<u>58,856</u>
<b>21. RESERVES</b>		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Accumulated Balance at beginning of year	74	74
(Less) Add Net Revaluation of Assets - Land and Buildings Note 1(f), Note 6	1,550	-
<b>Accumulated Balance at the end of the year</b>	<u>1,624</u>	<u>74</u>

# STATE FIRE COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005 (cont.)

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>22. RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL EQUITY</b>		
Total Equity at the beginning of the year	58,930	53,666
Total changes in equity recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance	<u>6,172</u>	<u>5,264</u>
Total Equity at the end of the year	65,102	58,930
<b>23. REMUNERATION OF COMMISSIONERS</b>		
There are seven Commissioners and three of these are State Servants. Commissioners not employed under the <i>Tasmanian State Service Act 2001</i> guarantee legislation. All Commissioners are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket are remunerated on an annual basis and superannuation is also paid to these Commissioners in accordance with the superannuation expenses.		
Commissioners were paid the following remuneration:		
Annual Remuneration	24,000	24,251
Superannuation	<u>1,076</u>	<u>1,402</u>
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>25,076</b>	<b>25,653</b>
<b>24. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS</b>		
The Tasmanian Audit Office audits the accounts for the State Fire Commission. The total remuneration to the Tasmanian Audit Office was \$28,280 in 2005 and \$23,040 in 2004.		
<b>25. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows.		
Current and 11am Call Account	1,100	4,477
Overdraft	(595)	-
On hand	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>4,485</b>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of Accumulated Surpluses to net cash provided by Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>5,264</b>
Add (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation	3,974	3,696
Asset Revaluation treated as revenue	(551)	-
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of assets	<u>(373)</u>	<u>(40)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities before change in Assets and Liabilities	7,671	8,920
Changes in assets and liabilities during the financial period		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(128)	33
(Increase)/Decrease in accrued revenue	(375)	(146)
(Increase)/Decrease in inventory	(52)	(250)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	(49)	91
Increase/(Decrease) in payables/accruals	169	(979)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	<u>825</u>	<u>613</u>
<b>Net Cash from Operating activities</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>8,282</b>



## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Members of the Parliament of Tasmania

### STATE FIRE COMMISSION

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2005

#### Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements

This audit report relates to the financial statements published in both the annual report and on the website of the State Fire Commission for the year ended 30 June 2005. The Members of the State Fire Commission are responsible for the integrity of both the annual report and the website.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements and notes named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial statements.

If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements in the State Fire Commission's annual report.

#### Scope

*The financial report and the Members' responsibilities*

The financial report comprises the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the certification by Members of the State Fire Commission for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Members of the Commission are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Section 107D of the Fire Service Act 1979. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

#### *Audit Approach*

I conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the Members of the Parliament of Tasmania. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

I performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the *Fire Service Act 1979*, the Treasurer's Instructions, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the State Fire Commission's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

I formed my audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- Examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- Assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Members.

While I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

The Audit Opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### Independence

In conducting my audit, I have met applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

#### Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report of the State Fire Commission

- a) Presents fairly the financial position of the State Fire Commission as at 30 June 2005, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) Is in accordance with the *Fire Service Act 1979* and applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

TASMANIAN AUDIT OFFICE

H M Blake  
**AUDITOR-GENERAL**

**HOBART**

27 September 2005



HEAD OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSION

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