The Tasmanian State Emergency Service (“SES”) has some 620 volunteers who provide front-line emergency services including storm and flood rescue, road crash rescue, Search and Rescue, and incident management. SES also works in support other Emergency Service Agencies including Police, Fire and Ambulance.

The 36 SES volunteer units within the 31 different facilities around the State, dedicate countless hours of unpaid work to assist the community when the State is at its worst. Volunteers are committed to the organisation in which we volunteer and are supportive of changes which lead to a new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service (“TFES”) governance model.

The Tasmania SES Volunteers’ Association(TASSESVA) wishes to see the SES grow and become a stronger model within the TFES framework. In consideration of the Submissions of the State Emergency Service 2021 response, the Volunteer Association agrees with the General Comments as outlined on pages 7 and 8. We note in particular the reference to being considered an afterthought and the ‘poor cousin’ within the Tasmanian Fire Service (“TFS”) or SFC provisions, and this is something that holds true to the Volunteer Association. We want to be proud of our organisation and want the community to be proud of us; not forgotten.

The proposed SES organisation structure on page 11, from the Volunteer Association’s perspective, outlines a clear directive and structure that members can understand and follow. While the concept of combing the SES with the TFS to become a TFES was conceptually challenging to begin with, this proposed structure maintains a clear direction of operational structure and chain of command.

The Volunteer Association has been in consultation with the salaried members of the SES in respect to the Submissions and the responses given, as outlined in the table starting at page 14. The Volunteer Association is in full support of the Comments made on the right-hand side of the table.

SES volunteers have experienced many challenges in the past 10 years, with major floods and fires around Tasmania seeing numerous units and members actively assist in major emergencies. To be able to continue the great work the paid and volunteer members do, the SES needs to be supported through all levels of government, and the submissions by the SES in response to the Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* ensure that should occur for many decades to come.