

Fire Service Act Review

From: [REDACTED]
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To: Fire Service Act Review
Subject: Fire insurance Levy

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To whom it may concern

As the owner and operator of a small aviation business in Tasmania I have concern as to the amount of fire levy we have to pay of \$6952.72 per annum . This is significant for a government levy to a small business like ours with only one aircraft.

After reviewing the Fire Service Funding paper produced it seems Tasmania is the only state to include an insurance fire levy which is based on premiums paid. I understand that insurance companies see seaplanes as higher risk, therefore they increase premiums significantly when compared with wheeled aircraft. Given 90% of our operations are on water the risk to a fire would seem less likely than to that of land planes. For a land based aircraft with the same value the insurance increases almost threefold when it is placed on floats.

I therefore feel that the insurance fire levy should at least be capped at an average level across the industry so that operators like myself are not adversely impacted with large fees vs a land based operator paying significantly less on a similar aircraft that is not a seaplane, or other seaplane operators around the country who do not pay any fire levy.

Given the current COVID environment we have been operating in recently and the government grants we have received due to hardship, it seems the grants we have been receiving have been returned to the government in the fire levy. I believe removing a fire levy all together for affected businesses should not be out of the question for the upcoming fire season. However, moving forward I propose the 14% on aircraft hull insurance is either reduced or capped given the high variety in insurance premiums based on the type of operation conducted by the aircraft.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Henry Ellis
Managing Director

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