

I submit that rural areas should pay a lesser rate than urban areas as they have volunteer brigades that will inherently have a slower

response time and cost less to maintain than full time brigades. I think that Mr Blake errs in his thinking that urban resources will attend rural residential fires as time is of the essence and the incident would be dealt with before an urban full time brigade could be of any

assistance. Therefore the rural residential levy should be half that of urban residential as per option 2 . The state government should also be taken to task for forcing councils to be their tax collection agents as ratepayers only see the levy as a rate rise and blame councillors for the rate increase. This is blatant cost shifting.