

File No: SF2189
NW

1 December 2023

The Hon. Felix Ellis
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
FES.Reform@dpfem.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill

At its ordinary meeting held Thursday 30 November 2023, the City of Launceston resolved that:

1. the proposed changes to the Bill are not supported due to a lack of community consultation, particularly with those in rural areas, inadequate timeframes allowed for Councils and the public to consider the proposal and an overall lack of information provided in a timely manner.
2. any changes to the Bill that adversely affect a certain property type classification or properties in certain parts of Tasmania, are phased in over a period of at least five years to assist those properties in managing any potential increases to their levy payable.
3. consultation be ongoing between the relevant State Government authorities and Councils on the new legislation and funding arrangements by way of the proposed working group to be established and that there be appropriate Local Government representation in this group and/or by directly engaging with each Council.
4. the State Government communicates changes effectively and clearly to the public, so as to reduce both the burden and any potential backlash on frontline Council staff. Clarity needs to be provided that it is a State Government levy, collected by Councils.
5. more clarity be provided on what the charitable concessions are, and that the proposed concession rate threshold to be reconsidered from 30% to assist with properties that will experience significant increases under the proposed new funding models and that the exemption criteria be broadened.

Council acknowledges the hard work carried out by both the Tasmania Fire Service and other emergency service providers, and welcomes the opportunity for future engagement.

Yours sincerely,



Nathan Williams
Chief Financial Officer