



Received TFS HQs
18 Feb 2025

31 January 2025

Strategy and Support
2/47 Liverpool Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Establishing the State Fire and Emergency Services Commission

It appears from the paper provided that the aim of the review is to establish one board to oversee the functions of the current Tasmania Fire Service and the State Emergency Services.

This may have some merit, but the paper does not clearly define how the on-ground services provide by Tas Fire Service and the State Emergency Service will function.

As currently is the case the existing protocols between TFS and the SES are seen as reasonably well developed in terms of 'who does what' at any call out scene. Equally so in relation to the police and ambulance.

There are currently some functionality issues in rural and remote areas and these in part could be resolved if all services were in the same facility. This would be extremely beneficial in Miena where the SES vehicle is housed off site some distance from other services.

It is of some concern that the paper appears silent of the issues of functionality of services in that we are concerned that in any given situation one of the volunteers is ready to act as both a TFS and SES agent, difficulties could well arise. Some TFS volunteers are not psychologically ready to assist with SES jobs such as freeing injured people from crash scenes.

Administration & Works & Services
Tarleton Street
Hamilton, Tasmania 7140
Tel: (03) 6286 3202
Fax: (03) 6286 3334

Development & Environmental Services
Alexander Street
Bothwell, Tasmania 7030
Tel: (03) 6259 5503
Fax: (03) 6259 5722

If the intention is to streamline Board operations of the two services to make budgetary savings that could be utilised at the operational level would be acceptable. But if this is an attempt to also reduce any operational level funding this would be totally unacceptable.

The paper has mentioned Local Government and their role in collecting the fire service levy and their involvement in the current management structure, but it was silent on the issue on Councils current role in the ownership of SES plant and equipment.

Council does not support any option that might include an SES levy like the current Tasmania Fire Levy being imposed on ratepayers with council being charged with the task to collect these funds.

We also do not support any increase in the current fire service levy to facilitate the proposed changes in the operation of the State Emergency Service and Tasmanian Fire Service.

This may be an appropriate time to address future funding for these items of equipment as well as the housing requirements not just for the equipment but also so the volunteers for both entities can co-exist in purpose-built facilities reducing the cost of having two facilities.

Although not part of this discussion paper but consideration could also be given in the future to include the police and ambulance services in the same facility as other emergency service providers, specifically in rural and remote areas.

If you require any further information regarding this submission, please contact the undersigned by email [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mackey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Mackey
Acting General Manager