

**Tasmania State Emergency Service Volunteers Association
(TASSESVA)**

Response submission to

**Position Paper – Establishing the State Fire and Emergency Services
Commission (TFES Reforms)**

Introduction:

The TASSESVA represents nearly 750 volunteer members of the Tasmania SES, as they continue to serve the Tasmanian community during times of flood, storms, road crashes, and search & rescues. The incredible work and commitment our volunteers provide is unquestionable, however, it is imperative their opinions, concerns and successes are at the forefront of discussions.

The TASSESVA thank the TFES Reform team for the ongoing consultation on this important subject matter, and the opportunity to reply to the Position Paper.

Feedback:

The TASSESVA supports the concept of TFES and close alliance of the SES and TFS, as long as both agencies maintain they own identity, and management. As has been witnessed across other states, Fire and SES can work well together, however, they can also work against one another. Therefore, it is important to ensure correct governance is adopted, as with a Volunteer Charter.

The TASSESVA have several main concerns with the TFES Reform position paper:

- 1) We support a skilled based board, however, only while maintaining representation from the SES and TFS. To ensure fair input on key matters and governance, we would like to see the TASSESVA, UFU, TRVFA and TVFBA with representation, all of whom would still be skills based, and additional representation from other 'skill's based' individuals as deemed appropriate
- 2) Without seeing the draft Bill and Regulations, there remains too many questions on how the SES volunteers, and agency, will be able to effectively perform their duties, and even what they are, as the Emergency Management Act will also be changed/removed.
- 3) Throughout the past number of years, and during initial conversations with the TFES working parties, the TASSESVA has actively advocated for the need for a sustainable funding model for the Tas SES. The position paper, or draft Bill, does not offer a clear direction on how the SES will be funded, including integration of assets, either council, or state owned.

Conclusion:

While the TASSESVA support reform, there remains too many unknowns with the information provided. Further consultation, and with particular emphasis on the above-mentioned points, is required to confirm our full support.

I look forward to further discussions and feedback.

Regards

Lance Mulligan

President

Tasmania State Emergency Service Volunteers Association (TASSESVA)