

Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*

Information Sheet Number 2

The initial consultation phase of the Review of the Fire Service Act has primarily been an information gathering stage whereby stakeholders have been asked to identify issues and opportunities that could be considered and addressed in a new Act. Stakeholders were invited to meet with us, attend presentations, call us or email us to learn about the Review process and how they can participate.

Stage Two of the Review

The issues identified during Stage 1 were categorised into key themes and an Issues Paper was released on 30 May 2018 that discussed these themes. The key themes were:

- Establishing a Clear mandate and operating platform
- Governance Arrangements
- Development of a sustainable funding model, and
- Operational Considerations

There was extensive consultation with stakeholders on the issues identified and submissions were encouraged to ensure that all views were taken into account. The Issues Paper was out for public consultation for a three month period.

The Issues Paper

A total of 39 submissions were received in response to the Issues Paper from a broad range of stakeholders. These included local government, unions, volunteer associations, government agencies, industry groups, other fire and land management agencies, member of the forest industry, the State Fire Commission, the Tasmania Fire Service, the State Fire Management Council,

SES, AFAC, environmental groups, the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management and members of the public. These submissions will be published on the Review Website once they have been considered by the Steering Committee.

The submissions canvassed a wide variety of views about the future role of the Tasmania Fire Service. These included:

- governance of the TFS
- role of the State Fire Commission
- purpose of the TFS
- how the SES should be included in the new legislation
- the most appropriate funding model
- relationship of TFS with other fire agencies
- Building safety
- Community education
- Response and Command and Control arrangements
- Volunteers
- Permit System
- Evacuation system
- Penalties

A number of possible amendments to the Act have been suggested that were not discussed in the Issues Paper. The Review Team is keeping a detailed register of these issues and they will be considered at an appropriate stage of the Review process. It is important to note that the revised legislation will not be intended to cover every policy decision, nor will it contain details around how policy will be implemented. These details may be managed at an operational level through policy, doctrine and procedures.

What Happens Next?

Following consideration of stakeholder input into the Issues Paper, a Draft Report will be prepared which will make a number of draft recommendations. It is important to stress that these will only be draft recommendations and stakeholders and the wider community will be invited to comment on the Draft Report and apply their respective knowledge and experience to understand whether the Report covers the relevant issues and functions as they were intended. Submissions will be invited to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed concepts and to identify which of them will be most beneficial to our communities.

It is intended that the Draft Recommendations Report will be released for public consultation early in 2019 and will focus on a number of fundamental issues. The Draft Report will be open for public consultation for a period of three months.

Following consideration of stakeholder feedback on the Draft Report, a Final Report will be prepared for submission to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and Cabinet. It is envisaged that this process will be completed by September 2019, following which drafting of the new legislation can commence.

Your Involvement

Your participation is essential to ensuring the new legislation is meaningful to the people who will be putting it to use. For further information visit us at www.fire.tas.gov.au or contact us at Act.Review@fire.tas.gov.au or on (03) 6225 8501.

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