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Fire Service Act Review  
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## Fire Service Act Review – STT Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

After reviewing the Issues Paper, Review of the *Fire Service Act 1979* STT would like to provide the following comments.

Comments are numbered as per the corresponding question number in the Issues Paper.

4. STT values and recognises the important contribution of the SES and its volunteer base to emergency management and believes recognition in the Fire Services Act would be reflective of the TFS/SES collaboration and provide legislative efficiencies.

6. STT strongly believes the current legislative authority for Forest Officers should be maintained in the amended legislation. The Inter Agency Fire Management Protocol is an effective framework that aligns STT/TFS and PWS and reflection of these practices in legislation is appropriate.

17. Fire Permit Officers should be appointed by the Chief Officer or their delegated authority. Recommendations for appointments should be made from TFS, STT or FMACs.

18. Currently there is some duplication of membership across some FMAC areas. It would be timely to review the current Fire Management Area boundaries.

23. TFS doctrine, the Inter Agency Fire Management Protocol and AIIMS provide solid and consistent response command and control practices. Legislation should be reflective of these and provide incident controllers with the relevant legal authority, guidance and confidence required to undertake the role and its responsibilities.

25. Endorsement of Incident Controllers should be through policy. This provides flexibility to review and update the endorsement process without the need to change or request change to legislation.

28. Agree the Act should be amended to exempt hazard mitigation activities from LUPAA. Given the Statewide Strategic Fuel Management program is based on tenure blind treatment of fuels, and TFS, STT and PWS are partners in the program, any provisions to TFS in the Act should also apply to STT and PWS when undertaking hazard reduction activities on private land (where these provisions are relevant and appropriate)

29. Note that “other machinery” does not include forest operation machinery. The Forest Industry Fire Management Committee (FIFMC) has developed the *Procedure: Fire Prevention at Forest Operations* with the objective of minimising the incidence of bushfires from forest and related operations. It outlines





the minimum fire requirements for forest operations and procedures to follow to reduce the risk of fire including on days of Total Fire Bans. This procedure is in place annually from October 1st to at least April 30th.

34. Inclusion of a general offence for dropping or throwing a burning object or material from a vehicle would be appropriate and provide consistency with other states. Agree with the suggested inclusions of offences, particularly failing to adequately supervise a fire. Need to include an adequate level of penalty for the offences to provide a worthwhile deterrent and meaningful punishment.

35. Provisions for liability need to be clear and adequately cover the agencies whose staff may be undertaking roles in the relevant operations.

Feel free to contact me for any questions or further discussion.

Regards

Dean Sheehan  
Manager, Fire Management  
Sustainable Timber Tasmania