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89A. Bushfire Risk Re-analysis

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
Corporate (TFS)BRIEF
NUMBER**89A****BUSHFIRE RISK RE-ANALYSIS**

Related Brief/s:	<u>Fuel Reduction Burning Program</u>	109
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Speaking Points**Statewide Relative Risk Chart**

- The statewide relative risk chart shows the influence of bushfire fuel loads on relative risk over time.
- Phoenix RapidFire was used to simulate unsuppressed bushfires burning in a single day, one-by-one from a systematic grid of ignitions spaced one kilometre apart across the whole of Tasmania.
- Each ignition point was allocated with three weather profiles with each representing a 1 in 10 year fire weather event for the local area, and therefore three separate fires were simulated from each ignition point.
- These risk charts are generated twice a year. The official risk charts are released around October following autumn and financial year reporting using the official fire history dataset for Tasmania.

S 27 - Exemption Applied

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- An ***interim risk reanalysis*** chart is released early each year, using incomplete fire history data from the previous spring burn program and first part of the bushfire season. This paper addresses the Risk Reanalysis for October 2020, which incorporates fire history up until 20th October 2020.

Key points from the October 2020 Risk Reanalysis Chart

- Relative risk has declined since the Fuel Reduction Program first began in 2014.
- 2019-20 is the first year of program where the relative risk has climbed, albeit at a lower rate compared to the natural reaccumulation rate.
- The statewide relative risk was 76.5% as the Fuel Reduction Program commenced in 2014. The relative risk dropped to 71.9% following implementation of the 2020 autumn burning program.
- This is a reduction in relative risk of 4.6% when compared to the relative risk at the onset of the Fuel Reduction Program.
- For context, 1% of relative risk currently represents approximately 3,644 hectares of modelled bushfire impacts on communities.
- While bushfires have contributed to risk reduction, fuel reduction burning has had the greater role to play in the overall reduction in relative risk to communities.
- In particular, the graph shows that for each completed year of the fuel reduction program, fuel reduction program burns (green dots) have achieved greater relative risk reduction than bushfires (orange dots).

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- So far the 2020-2021 burning program has reduced relative risk by 0.1% over spring, with the 2020 spring season having

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limited opportunities at the time of analysis with only twenty burns included in the interim 2020/21 scenario.

- Fuel loads will naturally reaccumulate following fire, and therefore relative risk will increase following fire events and in the absence of further burning or bushfires.
- Grey dotted lines on the chart indicate the rate at which relative risk would increase in the absence of bushfires and fuel reduction burning.

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Background

Critical information to Note

- Relative risk figures, maps and charts published from 25 March 2020 onward cannot be compared to relative risk figures drawn from any material published prior to 25 March 2020, e.g. from briefing notes, QTBs, PowerPoint presentations and reports.

What is Relative Risk?

- Fire spread and characterisation models are used to simulate the spread and behaviour of bushfires under different fuel and weather conditions, and are used to measure the potential for bushfires to impact on identified assets.
- *Relative risk* measures how bushfire impacts change in response to fuel reduction from planned burns and bushfires. It is therefore a useful tool to help with the identification of locations where targeted fuel reduction burning is likely to reduce bushfire risk, and to measure the effectiveness of fuel reduction burning.

Human Settlement Area (HSA) Change Maps

- *Modelled Change in Relative Risk to Human Settlement Areas: July 2014 to October 2020*
- HSA change maps show where bushfire relative risk has increased or decreased since the Fuel Reduction Program began in July 2014.
- Each of these maps are typically produced to show the human settlement areas within a Fire Management Area or municipality.
- Recent bushfires and fuel reduction burns (occurring since July 2014) are shown with a bold outline or hashed area respectively. Fire history with a type of 'unknown' are displayed as bushfire (this is also true for any modelling that separates the fire history types).
- The boundary of each human settlement area is outlined by a thin grey line.
- The coloured areas within the human settlement area show where the modelled bushfires impacted on communities above impact thresholds of 10,000 kW per metre and/or 2.5 embers per square metre. The colour of those cells indicate whether the relative risk for that particular human settlement area has increased, remained the same, or decreased since the start of the Fuel Reduction Program.
- Reductions in modelled bushfire impacts are shown in the green to blue colour scale. Reductions are typically recorded if a recent bushfire or fuel reduction burn has reduced the spread of modelled fires into a community, particularly at high intensities.
- Increases in modelled bushfire impacts are shown in the yellow to red colour scale. Increases tend to be recorded if fuels are recovering following a past bushfire event, and fuel reduction has not occurred since then.

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- It is normal to see minor fluctuations in relative risk that do not appear to be directly linked to a bushfire or planned burn.
- HSA change maps are useful to demonstrate the effectiveness of fuel reduction burning in local areas.
- The 'change in relative risk' is a very different measure to both the *starting relative risk* or the *total impacts* recorded against a human settlement area. Those three different measures (change, relative risk and total impact) convey different information and should not be treated as analogous.
- Relative risk change is calculated using the following logic:
 - When the maximum scenario impact is zero, the percent of change is zero. Otherwise the pre-program impact subtracted by the current impact divided by the maximum scenario expressed as a percentage.
 - As a result any scores greater than 100% (increase or decrease) are assumed to be modelling noise and are capped and displayed at 100%.
- The maps are generally produced twice a year, along with the risk charts.
- The following link describes the modelling process in plain language: [Briefing Paper: Relative Risk Baseline Update 2019 & Interim Risk Reanalysis December 2019](#)

Relative Risk Changes per FMA

- It is important to note that the results summarised here do not take the full Spring 2020 burn program into account.

Hobart FMA

- A strategic burning program has now reduced bushfire risk to most of the Hobart suburbs on the southern side of the Derwent River from Claremont south to Bonnet Hill.
- The relative risk to West Hobart has been reduced by 40% and recent reductions in Lenah Valley, Mount Stuart and surrounds over years of the program have been further solidified by recent burning last Autumn.
- Relative risk for the Dromedary area, Collinsvale, Molesworth, the Eastern Shore and suburbs to the southeast of the Meehan Range continues to climb as fuels reaccumulate following major bushfires.

Southern FMA

- A combination of planned burning and bushfires have considerably reduced bushfire risk to the communities of Kingston, the lower Huon Valley, Lachlan and New Norfolk.
- A mosaic of planned burning has reduced relative risk to Lune River by 17%.

East Coast FMA

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- The recent McNeils Rd bushfire in November 2019 has significantly reduced the relative risk for Swansea by more than 90%
- Planned burning in the Orford area over the life of the program has reduced the relative risk by close to 80%
- Relative risk in the Forestier and Tasman Peninsular is still increasing following the Dunalley bushfire in 2013.

Midlands FMA

- The relative risk for Campania & Runnymede is significantly reduced due to a combination of planned burning and bushfires in the area.
- The relative risk in the Broadmarsh and areas north of Dromedary are still building-up following bushfires in the early 2000s.

Central North FMA

- Planned burning has reduced relative risk to Heybridge, Penguin, Latrobe, Turners Beach, Devonport, Sprent, Barrington, Claude Road, and Golden Valley.
- The relative risk to Devonport and Claude Road has been reduced by more than 80%.

North East FMA

- Strategic fuel reduction burning has reduced relative risk to Nabowla, Bridport and Dianas Beach.
- Relative risk to Nabowla has been reduced by 34%.
- Relative risk to Pioneer, Dianas Beach and Bridport has been reduced by 10 to 25%.
- Planned burns combined with bushfires have considerably reduced relative risk in Fingal and Mangana, by 50 to over 75%.

Furneaux FMA

- Strategic fuel reduction adjacent to Lady Barron has reduced relative risk by 60%.

Tamar FMA

- Planned burning has reduced relative risk to communities along the west of the Tamar River, as well as Conara, Rawlana, Rossarden, Royal George, Poatina and the western suburbs of Launceston.
- Relative risk to Poatina, Conara, Rawlana and Rossarden has been reduced by over 75%.
- Relative risk to Riverside and Blackstone Heights has been reduced by 50 to 75%.
- Relative risk to Legana, Bell Bay, Travellers Rest and Nunamara has been reduced by 25 to 50%.

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- Relative risk to Greens Beach, Grindelwald, Deviot, Prospect Vale and Royal George has been reduced by 10 to 25%.

West Coast FMA

- Planned burning has reduced relative risk to Arthur River, Roseberry, Wynyard, Tullah, Ridgley and West Mooreville.
- The relative risk to Arthur River has been reduced by over 75%.
- The relative risk to Rosebery and West Mooreville has reduced by 25 to 50%.
- The relative risk to Wynyard has been reduced by 10 to 50%.
- The relative risk to Tullah and Ridgley has been reduced by 10 to 25%.
- We have low confidence in modelling around the Zeehan area because of model limitations. While modelling suggests a relative risk reduction of 10 to 25%, extensive fuel reduction around Zeehan has considerably reduced bushfire risk to the community.

King Island FMA

- Fuel reduction has been strategically located to interrupt potential fire runs and strengthen fuel breaks. To date fuel reduction has not occurred in an effective proximity to communities on the island. There has therefore been no significant change in relative risk to the communities on King Island.

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Statewide - Relative Risk

Chart Description:

This chart shows the influence of fuel state on relative risk over time. Phoenix was used to simulate un-suppressed independent bushfires burning over the course of a day, using a regular grid of ignition spaced 1km apart across the whole of Tasmania. Each ignition point was allocated with three weather profiles representing approximately a 1 in 10 year fire weather event for the local area, and therefore three separate fires were produced from each ignition point.

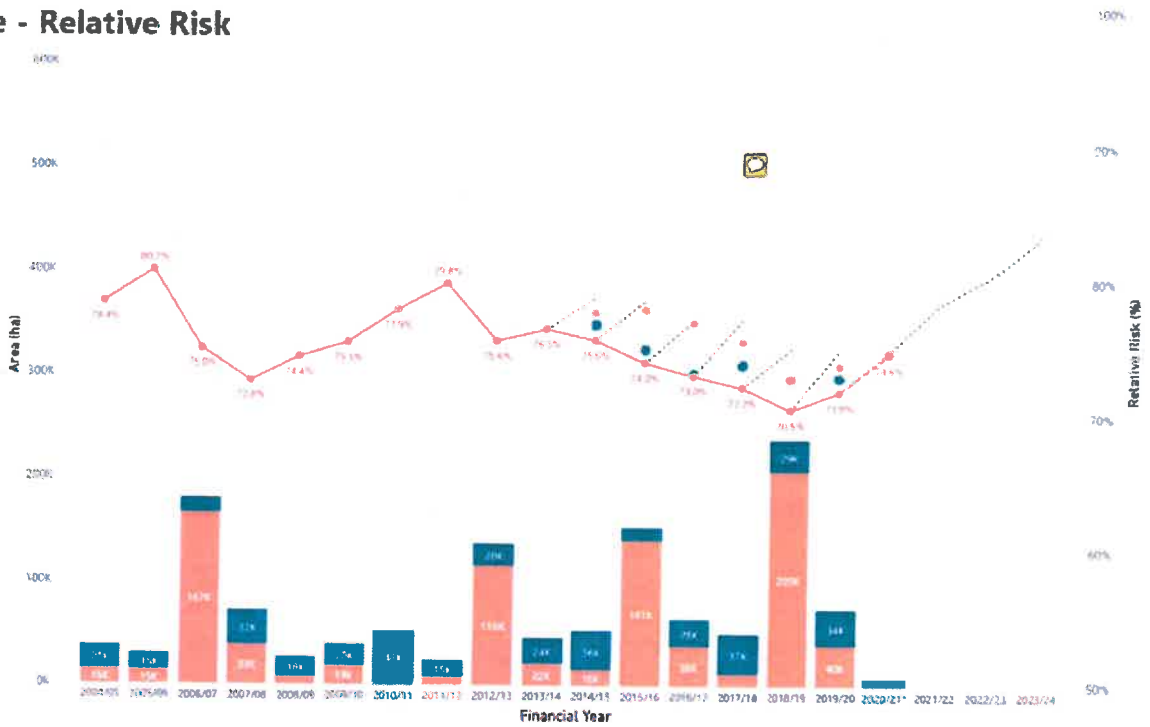
*Interim fire history layer, current to 20th October 2020.

**No Fire History demonstrates natural fuel reaccumulation in the absence of all fire.

Current Relative Risk

14.4% 74.4% 100.0%

● Bushfire
● Planned Burn
● Relative Risk
● No Fire History



Statewide - Relative Risk - Fuel Reduction Program Years

Chart Description:

This chart shows the influence of fuel state on relative risk over time. Phoenix was used to simulate un-suppressed independent bushfires burning over the course of a day, using a regular grid of ignition spaced 1km apart across the whole of Tasmania. Each ignition point was allocated with three weather profiles representing approximately a 1 in 10 year fire weather event for the local area, and therefore three separate fires were produced from each ignition point.

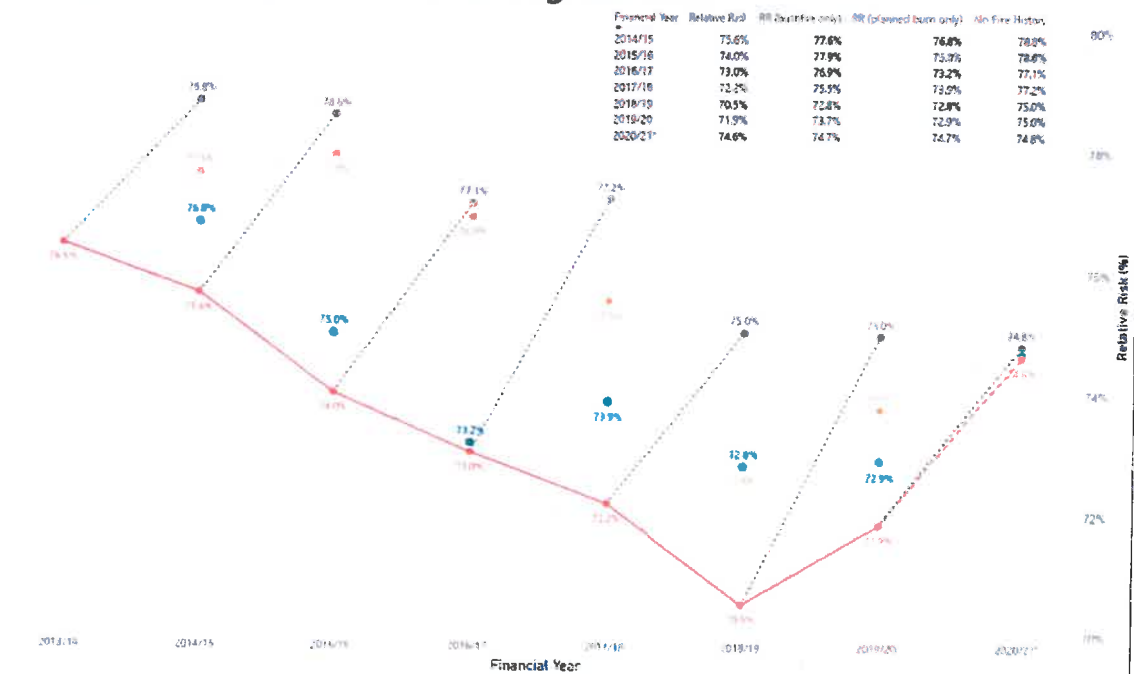
*Interim fire history layer, current to 20th October 2020.

**No Fire History demonstrates natural fuel reaccumulation in the absence of all fire.

Current Relative Risk

14.4% 74.4% 100.0%

● Bushfire
● Planned Burn
● Relative Risk
● No Fire History


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92. Fire Season Preparedness

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
Corporate (TFS)BRIEF
NUMBER**92****FIRE SEASON PREPAREDNESS**

Related Brief/s:	<u>Fuel Reduction Burning Program</u>	109
	<u>National Aerial Firefighting Centre Aircraft</u>	110
	<u>COVID-19 and Strategies for the Fire Season</u>	143

Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) has 334 career firefighters and over 5,000 volunteers (including more than 4,100 active frontline firefighters plus members performing support functions) stationed strategically throughout the State in 228 fire brigades.
- Tasmania's multi-agency response to fires also includes the firefighting capacity provided by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT).
- TFS, PWS and STT are preparing for the 2020-21 fire season in a holistic way utilising a broad range of both response and mitigation strategies.
- These strategies include public education campaigns, the Fuel Reduction Burning Program, establishment of an air desk and the use of predictive modelling.

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- TFS and partner agencies are also ensuring appropriate resourcing arrangements and contracts (e.g. aircraft and plant/machinery) are in place for response to fires, in addition to other activities that are triggered by seasonal activities.
- TFS has access to four local helicopter providers on the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) 'call when needed' contract basis.
- In addition, there will be eleven contract machines (six helicopters, four fixed-wing bombers and an Aerial Intelligence Gathering helicopter) in the State commencing in December 2020.
- Aircraft will be deployed in line with the Chief Officer's intent of 'weight of attack' for new fire starts to keep fires as small as possible. This has proven to be effective over the past two Summers with TFS stopping all new ignitions (299) on days of total fire ban.
- Remote area firefighting capacity has been increased statewide, with 30 newly trained volunteers joining their career counterparts in this specialised function for the 2020-21 Summer season.
- Pre-season fire preparedness briefings occurred in September 2020.
- TFS is actively managing the potential impact of COVID-19 on fire operations by reviewing how interactions are managed within operation centres and front-line gatherings for briefings. TFS is also reassessing the capacity of facilities for operations and alternative technological options.

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Background

- The Tasmanian fire season requires an adaptive approach to preparing and managing fires. The program of fuel management and strategic fuel reduction serves to mitigate the risk of fire.

Fuel Reduction Program

- The Tasmanian Fuel Reduction Program represents a contemporary approach to bushfire mitigation and community fire safety. Through the program, Tasmania is leading Australia in taking a strategic risk-based approach that encompasses both private and public land and is whole-of-government in implementation.
- The TFS is one of three main organisations partnering in the delivery of the Fuel Reduction Program in Tasmania, along with the PWS and STT.
- The program is in its sixth year of operation. Since the program began, 773 strategic bushfire risk reduction activities have been completed state-wide, encompassing over 116 732 hectares, of which 17 782 hectares was conducted on private land. All fuel reduction burns, and mechanical mitigation activities completed by partner agencies since the Fuel Reduction Program began have now been added to the Fuel Reduction Program website.
- Annual bushfire risk re-analysis work has indicated that the Fuel Reduction Program has reduced the bushfire risk in Tasmania by 5.9%.
- In some localised areas, the risk has been reduced by as much as 75% depending on where fuel reduction has occurred.
- Tasmania's bushfire risk is the lowest it has been in over 15 years.

Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods Program

- The Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods Program helps communities prepare themselves for bushfire. Independent research has found that households in communities that have already undertaken the program are significantly more prepared for the bushfire season.
- TFS is currently nearing completion of the delivery of round 3 of the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods program (BRN). This includes working intensively with 18 core communities state-wide, as well as supporting dozens more.

TFS Community Bushfire Protection Plans

- TFS Community Bushfire Protection Plans are in place for all communities in high bushfire risk areas. These provide members of the community with specific information on their options when a bushfire threatens their community and assist with the development of personal Bushfire Survival Plans.

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COVID-19 Safety Precautions

- TFS is preparing procedures to manage any situation where infection is detected in any teams or front-line crews.
- Contracts are being established for rapid deployment of deep clean for facilities, vehicles are thoroughly cleaned during shift changeovers, Personal Protection Equipment is being issued, and any at-risk groups within the ranks are being supported.

Financial Considerations

- Nil.

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107. Community Bushfire Protection Plans

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
State Fire
Commission (inc
SES)

BRIEF NUMBER
107

COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Related Brief/s:	<u>Fuel Reduction Program</u>	109
	<u>State Fire Management Committee</u>	116

Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) has been undertaking Community Protection Planning throughout Tasmania since 2010.
- The objective of Community Protection Planning is to develop plans to mitigate the impact of fire on Tasmanian communities.
- The program produces three types of plans:
 - community protection plans for local communities
 - response plans for emergency responders
 - mitigation plans to address fuel management for at-risk communities and critical infrastructure.
- There have been 126 bushfire protection plans and response plans covering Tasmania's highest risk communities developed to date.
- A total of 18 mitigation plans for at-risk communities and specific assets have also been developed.
- Eight new community protection plans are scheduled for release this fire season.

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Background

- A feature of the planning process is the involvement of community representatives in plan development, as well as local police, firefighters, State Emergency Service (SES) personnel, local government representatives and infrastructure managers.
- The program received national recognition in 2013, winning the State and Territory Government category of the Resilient Australia Awards.
- Protection plans enhance the safety of Tasmanians by providing community members with local emergency planning advice and information, including the location of shelters of last resort called 'nearby safer places'.
- These plans are published on the internet and widely publicised in communities for which they have been developed.
- Response plans identify where vulnerable people may gather during bushfires, community infrastructure and other assets prioritised for protection, safe access and egress routes, and water supplies for firefighting. These plans provide firefighters with a focus on the importance of public safety and the protection of assets that will contribute to community recovery.
- Mitigation plans assist Fire Management Area Committees address community bushfire risk. A best-practice planning framework is used to address fuel management across different land tenures.
- These mitigation plans have contributed to achieving strategic fuel management objectives through TFS's Fuel Reduction Program.
- Response plans and mitigation plans are available to all emergency management partners (Fire, Police, SES, Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Tasmania and local government).

Financial Considerations

- Nil.

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108. Community Education and Communications (Bushfires)

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT State Fire Commission (inc. SES)
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BRIEF NUMBER

108

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
(BUSHFIRES)**

Related Brief/s:		
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Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Fire Service delivers a range of fire safety programs for those most at risk.
- These include community development and education programs that deliberately target behaviour change in relation to fire safety.
- The Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) is a community-based bushfire prevention and preparedness program.
- The program works closely with a series of small bushfire-prone communities over two or more years.
- Between July 2018 and June 2020, the program worked intensively with 18 bushfire-prone communities statewide, as well as supporting dozens more.
- During this two-year period:
 - 8,833 people participated in bushfire preparedness activities through BRN.
 - The program supported volunteer fire brigades to develop their capacity to engage with their communities. This included a statewide workshop, and two regional workshops.

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- The program continued to work with a range of at-risk sectors including tourism and services for people over the age of 65 and people with disabilities.
- An independent evaluation compared community preparedness before and after the program was delivered. The evaluation found a significant improvement in household bushfire preparedness following delivery of the program, including:
 - those involved in BRN reported a significantly higher level of household bushfire preparedness, compared with those not involved in BRN
 - after being involved in BRN, 88% of households had a bushfire survival plan, a significant improvement on the 75% who had a plan before the program.

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Background

- In June 2020 the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods program (BRN) of Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) had been in full operation for seven years. BRN is a community-based prevention and preparedness program for bushfire prone communities across Tasmania.
- In June 2020, BRN concluded Round three of the program (July 2018 to June 2020). This included working intensively with 18 core communities statewide, as well as supporting dozens more. Round three outputs included:
 - between July 2018 and June 2020, a total of 8,833 people participated in BRN activities
 - the numbers for 2018-19 were very high, primarily because of a very busy bushfire season. Delivery of the program in 2020 has been impacted by COVID-19
 - 196 community development activities were conducted as part of Round 3
 - the program worked directly with communities (including volunteer brigades)
 - the program supported brigades to develop their capacity for community engagement, including the annual State TFS Volunteer Community Engagement workshop (two regional workshops were conducted in 2019)
 - a total of 407 TFS volunteers and 153 Officers participated in BRN during Round 3
 - the program continued to work with a range of at-risk sectors including tourism, preventative health, community services, services for people over the age of 65 and people with disabilities. One of these key partnerships was the collaboration between the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network, TFS and SES.
- As with Rounds one and two of the program, there was a rigorous evaluation process for Round 3.
- A direct comparison of survey results from 2020 and 2018 provided an independent assessment of the effectiveness of the BRN program with target communities. The evaluation found a significant improvement in household bushfire preparedness following delivery of the program.
- This included:
 - Overall household bushfire preparedness increased significantly, to 83%.
 - Those involved in BRN reported a significantly higher household bushfire preparedness, compared with those not involved in BRN.
 - Close to 9 in 10 households (88%) involved in BRN reported having a bushfire survival plan (BSP), a significant improvement on the baseline level of 75%.
 - More households reported that their BSP was in written form.

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- Over half of responding households (57%) reported that they would most likely leave their home early in the event of a major bushfire situation, a marked increase.
- More of those involved in BRN intended to leave early, and less intended to stay and defend their homes, compared with those not involved in BRN.
- Based on the research and evidence, round three of the BRN program continued to have the desired effect.
- Community members have been engaged with the program activities, have completed bushfire survival plans, and have engaged in community development activities to build resilience and undertake mitigation.

Financial Considerations

- Nil.

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109. Fuel Reduction Program

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
State Fire
Commission (Inc
SES)

BRIEF NUMBER
109

FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

Related Brief/s:	<u>Government Commitment Progress of Initiatives</u>	47
	<u>Bushfire Risk Re-Analysis</u>	89A
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	<u>Budget – State Fire Commission</u>	103
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	<u>Community Bushfire Protection Plans</u>	107

Speaking Points

- The Tasmanian Fuel Reduction Program represents a contemporary approach to bushfire mitigation and community fire safety.
- Through the program, Tasmania has been leading Australia in taking a strategic risk-based approach that encompasses both private and public land, and is whole-of-government in implementation.
- During 2019-20, 169 burns were completed over 27,821 hectares. This included 148 burns in the very successful Autumn 2020 burn season, with 53 being undertaken by local councils, private forest companies and contractors.
- All burns have strategic value against the Fuel Reduction Program's objectives, including bushfire risk reduction to

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community, critical infrastructure/assets, and significant natural values.

- The appointment of 12 newly funded positions to the Fuel Reduction Burn program will increase opportunities to undertake strategic fuel reduction treatments/activities in the future.
- Offers have been made to the three Burn Supervisors and commencement dates are currently being negotiated. It is expected these roles will be in place by early new year.
- Final interviews for the nine Crew Members are currently being conducted with an expectation that the positions will be in place in January 2021.
- Annual bushfire risk re-analysis work is being completed. A Communications Plan will be implemented to communicate risk reduction successes to communities as a result of fuel reduction burning.
- The 2020 Spring Fuel Reduction Burn program has undertaken 42 burns to date. These numbers include both partially completed burns units, where areas of high-risk vegetation are removed to reduce risk prior to completing the full Fuel Reduction Burn unit, as well as fully completed Fuel Reduction Burns.
- This includes 38 burns undertaken by the program lead agencies, with an additional 4 burns undertaken by local councils, private forest companies and contractors.
- The 2020 Spring Fuel Reduction Burn program has been accompanied by media campaigns, including articles in regional and local newsprint media, short bite radio advertisements, television advertisements and social media, including the Tasmania Fire Service Facebook page.
- There are a further 47 Fuel Reduction Burns planned for the spring 2020 program, which would result in an additional 6,593 hectares to be treated should suitable prescribed burning weather conditions become available.

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Background

- There is mounting evidence to demonstrate that previously completed fuel reduction burns have prevented bushfires from either rapidly developing, spreading close to settlements, and/or reaching fire intensities that were too extreme for firefighters to work safely.
- The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is one of three main organisations partnering in the delivery of the Fuel Reduction Program in Tasmania, along with the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT).
- Administrative responsibility for the delivery of the program was transferred to the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) in July 2016, from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). However, the program continues to straddle three ministerial portfolios.
- A high-level Steering Committee oversees the coordination and implementation of the program, comprising: Secretary DPFEM (Chair), Deputy Secretary DPFEM (Deputy Chair), Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Chief Officer TFS, Chief Executive Officer Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), Deputy Secretary Parks and Wildlife Service DPIPWE, and Chair State Fire Management Council (SFMC) and Chair Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council.
- The TFS Bushfire Risk Unit has the key responsibility for coordination and implementation of the program across the whole-of-Government. This role includes the implementation of the Business Plan and Communications and Engagement Strategy.
- The program strategically reduces bushfire risk in the areas that provide the most protection to communities and include both private and public land. This is known as a 'tenure-blind' approach.
- The program utilises the resources of the TFS, PWS, STT, contractors and local councils to mitigate bushfire risk in a strategic, systematic way across urban, semi-rural and wilderness areas.
- Fuel Reduction Program staff were involved in all roles and aspects of the response and provided several key specialist skills, including on-ground fire management, roles in Incident Management Teams, state-wide technical, strategic, interstate/international liaison and support roles.
- At a local scale, many Tasmanian communities now have reduced bushfire risk as a result of the Fuel Reduction Program, with up to 50-75% reductions in some areas.
- In the first six years of the Fuel Reduction Program and up to 30 June 2020, 768 strategic bushfire risk reduction activities have been completed state-wide, encompassing 115,083 hectares. All fuel reduction burns and mechanical mitigation activities completed by partner agencies are added to the TFS Fuel Reduction Program website.

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Financial Considerations

- The Fuel Reduction Program was initially funded for a four-year period, ending 30 June 2018. This funding enabled program building and early phases of implementation.
- As announced in the 2018-19 budget, commitment to the program has been allocated for the full extent of forward estimates at \$9 million per annum. An additional \$1.068 million has been allocated for the 12 new Mitigation Crew positions in 2020-21.
- From the 2017-2018 financial year onward, the Tasmanian Government committed \$500,000 per annum of the Program budget for specific strategic landscape burning in the south west wilderness areas of Tasmania, protecting our iconic vulnerable natural assets.
- While opportunities to undertake burning are sought throughout the year, fuel reduction burning is primarily a seasonal activity (key seasons being autumn and spring) and dependent of suitable weather conditions for burning. As a result, budget expenditure is not evenly spread across the year, and operational costs may vary significantly from year to year in accordance with weather conditions and broader climatic changes.
- The implementation of strategic mechanical fuel treatments through the Program, including fire breaks, will increase; particularly in areas where burning cannot take place. The cost of mechanical treatments is significantly higher per unit area than undertaking burning.
- The Fuel Reduction Program budget, as a non-indexed budget, continues to tighten each financial year due to the program growing coupled with increasing salary and overhead costs.
- Fuel Reduction Program partner agencies are working together to develop a program Planned Fuel Reduction Burn cost estimation template to enable future Fuel Reduction Burn unit cost budget forecasting for each planned burn.

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110. National Aerial Firefighting Centre Aircraft

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT State Fire Commission (inc SES)

BRIEF NUMBER 110

NATIONAL AERIAL FIREFIGHTING CENTRE AIRCRAFT

Related Brief/s:	<u>Fire Season Preparedness</u>	92
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Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) has access to four local helicopter providers that are available on a National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) 'call when needed' contract basis.
- In addition, from December 2020 there will be eleven contract aircraft in the State comprising six helicopters, two fixed wing bombers, two fixed wing water scooping FireBoss bombers, and an Aerial Intelligence Gathering (AIG) helicopter.
- Once the contracted aircraft arrive in the State, two staff will be deployed to manage the State Air Desk on-call arrangements.
- NAFC has provided additional funds to establish Large Air Tanker (LAT) airbases in both the South and North of the State, and this work is being progressed.
- TFS has access to LATs from around the country and engages them through NAFC when required. In addition, TFS will have available an additional Hercules (C130) for this Summer.

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Background

- Recommendations by Regional Chiefs and the forecasted weather for the summer season determine when contract aircraft is required.
- Of the contracted aircraft, three helicopters are based in the north and the remaining three, two fixed wing and two FireBoss and AIG helicopters are based at Cambridge.
- These aircraft are predominantly used for urban interface protection, with the Chief Officers intent of 'weight of attack' for new fire starts so as to keep fires as small as possible. This intent has worked well for TFS over the past few fire seasons. An example last season was the Collinsvale fire that was contained to one operational period.
- The combined water carrying capacity of two FireBoss Bombers exceeds that of one Canadair Superscooper. In addition, the FireBoss Bombers are better suited to Tasmania's hilly and mountainous terrain as they require a shorter run to scoop water and have a greater speed of turnaround. They are also significantly more cost effective to operate and support.
- The addition of the AIG helicopter and the two FireBoss aircraft will assist in the TFS lightning strategy. The strategy detects lightning ignitions sooner allowing the 'weight of attack' model to be deployed earlier.
- The TFS is using contract aircraft from local providers in the first instance before going out to the national market.

Financial Considerations

- The 2020-21 daily standing amount for 11 contracted aircraft is an increase in costs from last year of approximately \$876,000.
- The increase is due to an additional four contracted aircraft (minimum cost not including flying hours).
- Approximately 50% of the daily standings amount will be reimbursed through NAFC post-fire season.

	Total Daily standing cost	Daily Standing refund (NAFC Federal funding)	State Funded
2019-20			
Daily standing costings for 7 contracted aircraft	\$2,334,000	\$1,131, 000	\$1,203,000
2020-21			
Daily standing costings for 11 aircraft	\$3,967,000	\$1,888,000 (Forecast)	\$2,079,000

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111. Red Hot Tips Program

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT State Fire Commission (inc SES)

BRIEF NUMBER 111

RED HOT TIPS PROGRAM

Related Brief/s:	<u>Government Commitment Progress of Initiatives</u>	47
	<u>Budget – State Fire Commission</u>	103
	<u>State Fire Management Committee</u>	116

Speaking Points

- As announced by the Premier during the 2020 'State of the State' address, funding has been provided to help landowners plan for and undertake fuel reduction activities. This service will be provided through the *Red Hot Tips Program*.
- The new, enhanced program is aimed at farmers and landholders, or groups of landholders, who are responsible for large tracts of land in rural areas of Tasmania.
- The program educates, engages and supports landholders to actively manage their bushfire risk; encouraging collaborative vegetation fire management and ecological sustainability across the landscape.
- The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) has strategic oversight through the Red Hot Tips Advisory Group and is chaired by the SFMC Chair, Mr Ian Sauer. The group comprises of stakeholders with specific knowledge and skills in land management, bushfire management and rural engagement.

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- The program is being delivered by a team of four, comprising of a statewide coordinator and three regional facilitators.
- Red Hot Tips provides a central point of contact, 'a one stop shop service', for landholders on matters relating to bushfire risk, including:
 - on-ground, practical advice on effective bushfire management planning, including obtaining appropriate permits, developing burn plans and property management plans
 - opportunities for private and public landholders to work together to plan for, and undertake, vegetation fire management activities
 - training and mentoring, including planned burning demonstrations
 - assistance identifying resources required for planned burning, and
 - advice on alternative fuel reduction treatments and access to helpful resources.
- Facilitators have a key role in stakeholder engagement, visiting landholders' properties, fostering relationships between farmers and landholders, government agencies and industry to prepare for, and undertake, vegetation fire management activities, particularly where bushfire risk is identified across boundaries.
- The program was launched with good television, print and online media coverage. Two well attended landholder information and registration events have been held and 47 landholders have registered for the program.
- 31 burns have now been undertaken, with almost 500ha of area burnt.

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Background

- Planned burning is an important tool for managing bushfire risk and for enhancing biodiversity and native vegetation condition (e.g. enhance regeneration, assisting in weed management). However, over the past decades there has been a major reduction in the use of planned burns along with the skills required to conduct burning.
- During 2012 and 2013 a pilot project was run by Macquarie Franklin, funded by NRM North, which upskilled farmers in the use of fire for fuel reduction and ecological management. This successful pilot was then funded by the Government for a further three years as the Red Hot Tips program, concluding in 2017.
- The initial project surveyed landholder attitudes and experience with planned burning. The results showed that private landholders had some major barriers that limited the extent to which they undertake planned burns to manage their risk. These risks included, risk of fire escapes, potential liability from fire escapes, access to good weather/forecast information, labour to manage the burn and equipment to safely manage the burn.
- After a formal review of the program by SFMC in 2018, and considerable stakeholder input, recommendations clearly supported an ongoing program. Future options were identified for a sustainable and more cost-effective program to further increase community capacity, awareness and participation in mitigation activities to manage bushfire risk.
- The new model reflects the formal review of the Red Hot Tips program, stakeholder feedback, components of the similar Hotspots Fire Project run in New South Wales and information collected during the Fire Permit System Review and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council Independent Operation Review.

Financial Considerations

- Funding is for a 12-month program. Future funding is required to support a sustainable program to promote behavioural change.

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112. Remote Area Firefighting

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
State Fire
Commission (inc
SES)

BRIEF NUMBER

112**REMOTE AREA FIREFIGHTING**

	<u>Budget - DPFEM</u>	43
	<u>Government Commitment Progress of Initiatives</u>	47
Related Brief/s:	<u>Budget – State Fire Commission</u>	103

Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) has a remote area capability of approximately 100 career firefighters.
- Access to career remote area firefighters is in-part restricted, due to minimum staffing agreements that maintain urban firefighting response in our cities and towns.
- An internal review by the TFS, and an independent review by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council was conducted after the 2015-16 fire season. The review recommended that TFS consider utilising volunteers to enhance its Remote Area Team capacity.
- In light of the recommendations, the TFS commenced a project aimed at increasing the organisation's capability to train volunteer remote area firefighters.
- The Tasmanian Government has provided seed-funding to support the development of a volunteer remote area firefighting capability, with the provision of \$535,000 over a four-year period commencing 2018-19.

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- An additional \$1.27 million has been committed for 2020-21 to fund three positions, and the first year of the remote area capability, including training and equipment.
- An expression of interest process attracted around 200 applications from existing TFS volunteers, with 30 people being selected to participate in further training.
- The selected volunteer firefighters have undertaken training to join their career counterparts in an enhanced remote area firefighting capability.
- Those 30 have now completed their training, adding to the State's remote area capacity for the 2020-21 Summer season.

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Background

Volunteer Remote Area Team capability project

- The Tasmanian Government provided funding to support the development of a volunteer Remote Area Team (RAT) capability with the provision of \$535,000 over a four-year period, commencing 2018-19. An additional \$1.27 million of funding has been committed for 2020-21 to assist its management, training and equipment requirements.
- A review into the remote area capability of TFS in late 2019, has laid the foundation for the successful delivery of this enhanced capability. Recommended safety and equipment upgrades are due to be completed prior to this summer.

Current Remote Area Team resources

- All TFS career firefighters are trained in bush firefighting, however due to the arduous nature of remote area firefighting, participation in this capability is currently by opt-in and not mandatory.
- Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service continues to train and maintain a strong remote area firefighting capability in the State.
- It is extremely difficult to gauge the optimum capacity for additional RAT capability as fire seasons, by nature, vary considerably. However, climate experts are advising emergency services must prepare for more frequent and severe bushfire seasons.
- While Tasmania is not likely to have a high-level of demand every Summer, having an additional 80 volunteers that are remote area trained to draw from would be a prudent approach, bearing in mind that volunteers are not always available. This would strengthen response, reduce pressures on the career workforce and lessen the costs of demands for interstate resources.

Use of Interstate Resources

- During the 2018-19 Summer, Tasmania requested an additional 650 individual RAT personnel. There is no guarantee that TFS will be able call on interstate resources in future fire seasons due to COVID-19 restrictions. The significant 2019-20 bushfire season that affected several mainland states highlighted that these resources may not always be available when required.

Financial Considerations

- State Government seed-funding (over four-years, commencing 2018-19) is \$535,000. An additional \$1.27 million has been committed for 2020-21.

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143. COVID-19 and Strategies for the Fire Season

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 90 COVID-19 Response & Recovery

BRIEF NUMBER 143

COVID-19 AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FIRE SEASON

Related Brief/s:	<u>Fire Season Preparedness</u>	92
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Speaking Points

- The outlook for the 2020-21 Tasmanian bushfire season suggests a potentially later start to the bushfire season than usual.
- As part of strategic planning for the bushfire season, Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is undertaking COVID safe planning for operations, including arrangements for interstate assistance.
- TFS has prepared a scalable and agile set of arrangements that can be activated in the unlikely event that interstate assistance is required during this bushfire season.
- These arrangements incorporate the full suite of measures within the TFS COVID-19 Safe Response Support Plan to minimise COVID-19 risks whilst facilitating prompt and effective interstate support, should it be required, to protect Tasmania from significant fires.
- Broadly, these arrangements would see TFS seek 'essential worker' status or exemptions to border control measures as required.

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- Any request for interstate support would give precedence to accessing support from 'non-affected' (low risk) jurisdictions. Management of these resources would follow Public Health direction and advice at the time.
- COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and other public health requirements are being considered in the planning for any major bushfire event including the safety of the public should there be a need for evacuation and the safety of TFS personnel in performing their duties.
- Activities are underway to test the Joint Bushfire Arrangements and evacuation arrangements in the context of COVID-19.
- Prior to the bushfire season work will be progressed to coordinate arrangements between neighbouring municipalities so that multiple safe locations can be provided and allow for social distancing requirements.

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Background

- TFS has been actively planning for preparedness for the forthcoming fire season in relation to managing COVID-19 requirements. This includes reviewing command doctrine which will result in a change to how state and regional command is managed.
- The National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) has established a cross-jurisdiction committee to coordinate aerial firefighting state/territory information. Tasmania is actively participating in this process.
- All Aircraft operators have been advised that they will need to have comprehensive COVID-safe plans in place for the season. Tasmania will utilise Call When Needed Aircraft where appropriate.
- The Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC) has approved supplementary principles to the Arrangement for Interstate Assistance articulating additional measures required in connection with requests for interstate movements of resources.
- The implications of border restrictions and quarantine arrangements are being considered. TFS personnel are actively engaging with the Department of Health and the State Control Centre to determine possible solutions to these issues.
- Because quarantine requirements are and will continue to be subject to change at very short notice, there is limited value in trying to plan based on an assumption that current restrictions will apply – decisions will have to be made at the time a resource request is made based on the restrictions then in place.
- Lead times for any interstate deployment will be increased by the necessity for additional planning and Tasmania is factoring this into the strategic planning and protocols for seeking interstate assistance.
- The health, safety and wellbeing of fire and emergency services personnel, their families and the community are paramount. Increased measures in relation to health, hygiene, protective clothing and equipment are in place to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Tasmania has implemented control measures specific to incidents in line with advice from state and federal health authorities. These include:
 - wearing appropriate PPC/PPE
 - increased messaging on the importance of good hygiene practices
 - increased awareness on the cleaning of equipment and self
 - increased decontamination measures where appropriate, and
 - Limiting activities of volunteer firefighters who are in vulnerable groups.

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25. Family Violence and Safe Families Tasmania

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 2.4 Support to Judicial Services

BRIEF NUMBER 25

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SAFE FAMILIES TASMANIA

Related Brief/s:	Budget Chapter 2019-20 Performance Measures (DPFEM)	45
	Electronic Monitoring of High-Risk Family Violence Perpetrators	66

Speaking Points

- Eliminating family violence remains a priority for the Tasmanian Government.
- Violence against anyone, in any form, is unacceptable, but the harm caused by family violence is particularly devastating. Family violence damages the physical and mental health of victims, has significant short and long-term negative impacts on victims and children involved, and impacts significantly on our communities.
- On 1 July 2019, the Tasmanian Government released *Safe Homes, Families, and Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022*. This Plan represents the next stage of the Government's long-term commitment to preventing and responding to family violence, and the new response to sexual violence.
- The Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU) was established in 2016 and is a police-led centralised unit with

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representatives from multiple government agencies, who work collaboratively to review incidences of family violence.

- The SFCU undertakes cumulative assessments of risk and harm to ensure coordinated support to victims of family violence, including children. These assessments, and any associated recommendations, are fed back into the response model for action.
- Between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, police attended 3,566 family violence incidents, and 2,317 incidents classified as either arguments or family violence information reports.
- Although this is a slight reduction in the number of matters reported during 2018-19, the last five years has seen an overall increase in the number of matters reported.
- This sustained level of reporting suggests a reduced level of tolerance for family violence in the community and by persons affected by family violence. It also shows an increased awareness and confidence in family violence response, intervention and support services.
- Although overall numbers have increased, there has been a continued reduction in the number of family violence incidents that are assessed as high-risk.

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If required – death of S 36 - Exemption Applied

- Following the tragic death of S 36 - Exemption Applied in 2015, Tasmania Police conducted an internal review in response to the allegation that S 36 - Exemption Applied reported family violence.
- As a result, it was identified that there was a system gap that did not allow for the capture of information where an event did not fall within the context of family violence or family argument.
- Since that time, enhancements to the Family Violence Management System have been made to allow for disputes between parties in a significant relationship, that do not amount to family violence or family argument, to be recorded as family information reports.
- When an incident is classified as a family information report, attending police are to record full and accurate details of both parties and details of what has occurred (Family Violence Manual 5.5).
- These reports are required to be submitted prior to conclusion of duty and validated by a Supervisor. The reports are reviewed by the Family Violence Unit Sergeant to ensure appropriate action has been taken, and consider suitable interventions or supports, if required. This provides an additional process that did not exist in 2015.
- All family violence matters are raised and discussed at the Integrated Case Coordination meetings of Safe at Home agencies. This ensures that concerns for a person affected by family violence, or a vulnerable person, can be appropriately addressed in a timely manner.

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S 36 - Exemption Applied



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If required – ABC (Melbourne) article: GPS trackers, hidden cameras on the rise as domestic violence increases during pandemic

- Tasmania Police has not seen an increase in technology-based family violence.

- S 30 (1) (e) Exemption Applied

- The use of email, mobile telephone text or social media can be used to commit family violence offences. These can occur where there is a non-contact provision in a family violence order and a perpetrator may breach that provision by contacting the other party electronically.
- These offences are predominantly in the low risk family violence incidents.

- S 30 (1) (c) Exemption Applied
S 30 (1) (e) Exemption Applied
- S 30 (1) (c) Exemption Applied
S 30 (1) (e) Exemption Applied

- With the advent of COVID-19, the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU) has been monitoring the incidence of family

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violence (and family arguments) in Tasmania on a daily basis, to identify trends and issues associated with COVID-19, and where COVID-19 is explicitly mentioned as a contributing factor. This has occurred since 2 March 2020 when the first COVID-19 case was identified in Tasmania.

- No trends and issues have been identified and the number of family arguments and family violence incidents has occurred at a level very close to the 3-year average.
- Importantly, the number of reported high risk incidents remains below the 2018-19 average.

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Background

- Family violence incidents (as classified under the *Family Violence Act 2004*)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
FV Incidents	3,155	3,385	3,579	3,566
FV Arguments*	2,077	2,245	2,377	2,317
Total	5,232	5,630	5,956	5,883

Source: Family Violence Management System. *Data from 2016-17 FV Argument counts include family information reports.

Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2019-2022

- Building on the success of the previous Plan, the latest Action Plan was launched by the former Premier on 1 July 2019. Importantly, the Plan includes actions to address the harm caused by crimes of sexual violence.
- Strong governance arrangements, led by the Family and Sexual Violence Cabinet Committee, Family and Sexual Violence Steering Committee, and the Strategic Oversight Committee, provides the structures to successfully implement future actions under the Plan.

Safe at Home

- Safe at Home delivers an integrated criminal justice response to family violence in Tasmania. The Safe at Home service system is designed to meet the needs of victims, both adult and children, while holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour. It is directed by the *Family Violence Act 2004* and associated legislation and policy.
- The four objectives of Safe at Home are to:
 - improve the safety of adult and child victims of family violence in the short and long-term
 - ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for family violence as a crime and change their offending behaviour
 - reduce the incidence and severity of family violence in the longer term, and
 - minimise the negative impacts of contact with the criminal justice system on adult and child victims.

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- The Safe at Home system includes the following family violence specialist services:
 - Safe at Home Coordination Unit (Department of Justice)
 - Family Violence Units (Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management)
 - Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (adult and child services), (Department of Communities Tasmania)
 - Court Support and Liaison Service (Department of Justice)
 - Defendant Health Liaison Service (Tasmanian Health Service)
 - Specialist family violence lawyers (Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania)
 - Specialist police prosecutors (Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management)
 - Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (Department of Justice)
 - Child Safety Service (Department of Communities Tasmania), and
 - Safe Homes, Safe Families social workers (Department of Education).
- Tasmania Police maintains a Family Violence Unit (FVU) in each of the police districts. The focus of FVUs is on victim safety, through risk and offender management. The district FVUs are managed by Detective Inspectors from the Criminal Investigation Branch.
- Integrated Case Coordination (ICC), a key feature of Safe at Home, acts as a safety hub in each region. This ensures all risk and safety aspects of family violence matters are discussed, and appropriate actions decided. ICC meetings are held weekly in each of the three regions throughout the State and are attended by service providers in the Safe at Home service system.

Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU)

- Established in July 2016, the SFCU is led by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and comprises representatives from the following government agencies:
 - Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
 - Department of Justice
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Communities Tasmania, and
 - Department of Education.

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- Each agency conducts a daily analysis of information held by that agency, regarding all parties involved in an incident, to outline key issues concerning each relationship/family. A strategic and co-ordinated assessment of all relevant information is conducted. Identified actions and recommendations are entered into the Safe at Home information system to be utilised by relevant agencies.
- A key function of the SFCU is to identify children affected by family violence. Notifications are provided to schools to ensure these children are supported by appropriate professional services. During the 2019-20 financial year, the SFCU has provided 3,015 notifications to schools regarding 4,421 students affected by family violence.
- The SFCU complements the work of the Department of Justice-led Safe at Home program. Safe at Home is the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. DPFEM is a key partner in Safe at Home.

Safe Families Coordination Unit	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Family violence incidents reviewed	5,238	5,752	6,138	6,018
Families assessed through SFCU mapping process	302	274	251	219
Children identified as affected by family violence	1,863	3,411	3,574	4,421
Notifications to schools	1,154	2,234	2,516	3,015

[Source: Safe Families Coordination Unit]

Relevant Definitions

If an incident does not fit the definition of 'family violence incident' it is considered to be a 'family argument'.

Family Violence Incident:

- Defined in Section 7 of the *Family Violence Act 2004* as:
 - (a) any of the following types of conduct committed by a person, directly or indirectly, against that person's spouse or partner:
 - (i) assault, including sexual assault
 - (ii) threats, coercion, intimidation or verbal abuse
 - (iii) abduction
 - (iv) stalking within the meaning of section 192 of the *Criminal Code Act 1924*

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(v) attempting or threatening to commit conduct referred to in subparagraph (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv)

(b) any of the following:

(i) economic abuse

(ii) emotional abuse or intimidation

(iii) contravening an external family violence order, an interim FVO, an FVO or a PFVO

(c) any damage caused by a person, directly or indirectly, to any property -

(i) jointly owned by that person and his or her spouse or partner; or

(ii) owned by that person's spouse or partner; or

(iii) owned by an affected child.

Family Argument/Family Information:

- A dispute between two persons, in a family relationship, where family violence as defined by Section 7 of the *Family Violence Act 2004* has not, and is not likely, to be committed (Note: A person aged 15 years or younger cannot be party to a significant relationship). A family argument is a non-violent, non-abusive, non-criminal dispute, characterised by the absence of controlling or coercive behaviour and therefore attending members identify no issues of physical risk and safety.

Financial Considerations

- The SFCU is funded under the *Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022*.
- Practical assistance funds, to support temporary accommodation and security upgrades for victims of family violence, are centrally managed within the DPFEM budget allocation and administered by the district FVUs.

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66. Electronic Monitoring of High-Risk Family Violence Perpetrators

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT
Corporate
(Police)BRIEF
NUMBER**66**

**ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF HIGH-RISK
FAMILY VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS**

Related Brief/s:	<u>Family Violence and Safe Families Tasmania</u>	25
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Speaking Points

- As part of its ongoing commitment to the protection of victims of family violence, Tasmania Police commenced a joint trial with the Department of Justice, involving the GPS tracking and electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence perpetrators on 5 November 2018.
- Electronic monitoring is intended to reduce the impacts and incidence of family violence and enhance the safety of victims and their children. It is also aimed at increasing perpetrator accountability.
- Electronic monitoring may be a condition of a Family Violence Order made upon application by police to a Magistrate. All perpetrators are screened for suitability prior to the application being made.
- Victims of family violence are given the opportunity to 'opt in' for bi-lateral monitoring and can carry a keyring size GPS tracking device that can better enhance early detection and warning of an impending proximity breach.

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- As at 30 June 2020, 81 family violence orders with electronic monitoring conditions have been granted by the courts, with only one order denied. Seventeen victims have opted in for bi-lateral monitoring.
- In May 2020, the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU) conducted an analysis of data held within the Family Violence Management System (FVMS). The data identified that, between November 2018 and April 2020, 73 perpetrators participated in the trial. Of these, 52 were subject to electronic monitoring for at least six months.
- The trial is now complete and has transitioned to 'business as usual' from 1 July 2020.
- Preliminary data of those involved in the trial, when comparing their offending history in the 12 months prior, suggests the following outcomes:
 - 82% decrease of high-risk incidents
 - 70% reduction of assaults
 - 80% reduction of threats
 - 89% decrease in allegations of emotional abuse
 - 100% decrease in reports of stalking.
- A final independent evaluation of the trial is being conducted by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, University of Tasmania, to be completed by the end of 2020.

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Background

- The *Safe Homes, Safe Families, Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020* builds on, and complements, work being undertaken as part of the national effort to prevent family violence. It acknowledges that the Tasmanian Government has committed to participate in a range of national initiatives, including delivering approaches using technology to keep people experiencing family violence safe.
- In accordance with Government strategies to combat family violence through innovation, the electronic monitoring trial 'Project Vigilance' was delivered by the DPFEM in collaboration with the Department of Justice and involved a trial of electronic monitoring of perpetrators of family violence. The project was supported by both State and Commonwealth Governments.
- The project was delivered over three phases which was subject to ongoing funding, dependent upon key milestones being achieved. The first phase was project planning and procurement of devices. Phase Two consisted of a twelve-month trial of electronic monitoring devices. Phase Three consisted of the evaluation of the Phase Two trial. All three phases have been successfully completed and funding secured.
- Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) is evaluating the Tasmanian trial. On 11 December 2019, the twelve-month review report was completed and submitted to Government.
- Project Vigilance was officially closed on 30 June 2020. The electronic monitoring has been continued with existing funding and is now administered by the Safe Families Coordination Unit.

Financial Considerations

- The project is co-funded by State and Commonwealth Governments under the *National Partnership Payment – Women's Safety Package – Technology Trials* for the life of the project totalling \$2,790,000. Funding is subject to review and milestone assessments. DPFEM has successfully achieved all required milestones.
- The project remains within the allocated budget and has funding to continue for a further period of twelve months.
- The Government's position on continued electronic monitoring of family violence perpetrators in Tasmania, and associated funding, is undetermined.

S 27 - Exemption Applied

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33. Floods – Blake Review

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State
Emergency
Management
Service

BRIEF
NUMBER
33

FLOODS – BLAKE REVIEW

Related Brief/s:	<u>Tasmania Flood Mapping Project</u>	34
	<u>Progress with Emergency Management Reforms</u>	37
	<u>Natural Disasters Reviews</u>	97

Speaking Points

- The Tasmanian Government and other organisations continue to implement responses to the 24 recommendations made in the *Report of the Independent Review into the Tasmanian Floods of June and July 2016*.
- The implementation of responses to:
 - 14 recommendations are complete (including recommendations 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 18, and 19 through to 24), and
 - 10 recommendations are being delivered over longer time frames due to the complexity and ongoing nature of the work (including recommendations 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 17).

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Background

- Mr Mike Blake released his *“Report of the Independent Review into the Tasmanian Floods of June and July 2016”* on 5 June 2017.
- At the request of the then Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) prepared a proposed government response.
- The Government response was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee on 9 September 2017, by the Ministerial Committee for Emergency Management on 10 October 2017, and was approved by Cabinet on 21 November 2017.
- The Government’s response accepted twelve recommendations, supported four recommendations in-principle, and noted eight recommendations that required collaborative implementation. The Government response was not announced at the time as the intent was to resolve funding issues around the implementation of the four recommendations that were accepted in-principle before announcing it.
- Confirmation of Australian Government co-funding for the *Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project*, a \$3 million project that addresses recommendations 4 and 5 of the Blake Review, was received in February 2018. This three-year project is still underway and making good progress.
- New funding of \$1.7 million was provided to SES in the 2020-21 budget over the forward estimates to deliver Community Protection Planning for flood and storm hazard. This funding will be used to help implement the Tasmanian Government’s responses to Blake Flood Review recommendations 1, 7, and 12.
- A \$100,000 Australian Government Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant was provided to SES in November 2020 to help implement the Tasmanian Government’s response to Blake Flood Review recommendations 12 and 15.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
SES Flood Policy Unit	-	-	500,000	500,000
Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project (Tas Govt. contribution)	-	-	1,450,000	650,000
Total			1,950,000	1,150,000

[Source: Tasmanian Government 2018/19 budget, MoU between DPAC and DPFEM for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding.]

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Financial Considerations

- New funding of \$1.7 million was provided to SES in the 2020-21 budget over the forward estimates to deliver Community Protection Planning for flood and storm hazard. This funding will be used to help implement the Tasmanian Government's responses to Blake Flood Review recommendations 1, 7, and 12.
- A \$100,000 Australian Government Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant was provided to SES in November 2020 to help implement the Tasmanian Government's response to Blake Flood Review recommendations 12 and 15.

List of Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
I	<p>That in flood-prone municipalities, the respective Municipal Committee develops or reviews flood-related sub-plans within a Municipal Emergency Management Plan at least every two years and submits each sub-plan to the Regional Controller for approval.</p> <p>In addition, that each Municipal Committee maintains a current flood plan, in a standardised format, which at least identifies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> flood-prone parts of their locality, particularly those where lives may be at risk; required actions to be taken in the event of a flood threat, especially timely evacuation; trigger points for taking required actions and how those trigger points will be monitored; and how the community can access flood-plan information. 	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE	Municipal Emergency Management Committee responsibility	DPfEM (SES)	<p>As at 18 November 2020 Underway – scheduled completion 2022..</p> <p>There are currently seven municipalities which have flood plans for key watercourses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launceston City • Latrobe • Derwent Valley • West Coast • Huon Valley • Northern Midlands • Glenorchy <p>Outputs from the SES Flood Policy Unit and the Flood Mapping Project, which is jointly funded by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments (\$3 million over three years), will help inform flood-related sub-plans within respective Municipal Emergency Management Plans (MEMPs)</p> <p>The Tasmanian Evacuation Framework provides guidance to Municipal Emergency Management Committees on the preparation of the evacuation elements of the flood related MEMP sub-plans.</p> <p>SES commenced the one year Tasmanian Community Flood Planning Pilot project on 1 July 2019 which will assist with implementing the response to this recommendation.</p> <p>Funding was allocated in the Tasmanian Government's 2019-20 budget for SES to employ three emergency management planners to assist Municipal Committees undertake emergency management planning.</p> <p>\$1.7 million was allocated to SES across the forward estimates in the Tasmanian Government's 2020-21 budget for SES to employ additional staff to undertake community protection planning for flood and storm.</p>

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No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
2	That all councils include an easily identifiable website link for the public to locate their Municipal Emergency Management Plan and community safety information.	NOTED	Council responsibility	DPfEM (SES)	Complete - 2 October 2019 All 29 Municipal Councils have a copy of the relevant MEMP accessible on their website.
3	That SES uploads current flood studies and plans to the Common Operating Platform as a flood plan layer and that councils, subject to resolving licence restrictions, arrange to have appropriate access.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	Complete - July 2019 All currently available flood studies and flood extent data are accessible by registered users including emergency services personnel and key Municipal Council personnel on the Common Operating Picture web-based mapping system. All current flood plans and maps with response information are accessible by registered users on WebEOC, the multi-agency information sharing system.
4	That agencies undertaking flood studies adopt a standardised approach, based on Australia Handbook 7, maintain public ownership of underlying data sets to support future modelling, and ensure open access to these studies.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	Underway- scheduled completion June 2021 (then ongoing). The Government is working to ensure that all flood studies undertaken by Tasmanian Government agencies (and funded with Tasmanian Government funds or grants administered by Tasmanian Government agencies) will adopt a standardised approach based on <i>Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook 7</i> . This is part of the \$3 million Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
5	<p>That Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertakes a comprehensive assessment of flood mapping in Tasmania with a view to identifying data gaps, quality and currency, and works collaboratively with councils to identify funding to improve current statewide flood data; and explores the feasibility of undertaking a comprehensive flood mapping of Tasmania, using LiDAR or other contemporary technology, with the objective of identifying which parts of our State are, and are not, prone to riverine flooding. 	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE		DPfEM (SES)	<p>Underway – scheduled completion June 2021.</p> <p>The Government is reviewing flood studies and developing a comprehensive approach to address gaps identified.</p> <p>\$3 million over 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-2021 has been committed in equal shares by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments under the <i>Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements</i> to undertake the Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project to address this recommendation in relation to flood affected areas.</p>
6	<p>That Government establishes a central flood policy unit responsible for coordinating flood policy across all government agencies, including Government businesses, and ensures that such a unit has a whole-of-government and community focus.</p>	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE		DPfEM (SES)	<p>Complete – November 2018</p> <p>Recurrent funding of \$500,000 pa for the establishment and operation of the Flood Policy Unit within SES was included in the 2018-19 State Budget.</p> <p>Two positions commenced in November and December 2018. Hydrologist commenced in April 2019. Policy and Planning Analyst commenced in May 2019.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
7	That SES and Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) share resources and align their community education programs and adopt an all-hazards approach to awareness.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	\$1.7 million was allocated to SES across the forward estimates in the Tasmanian Government's 2020-21 budget for SES to employee additional staff to undertake community protection planning for flood and storm.
8	That in the event that Hydro Tasmania decides to start cloud seeding again, water managers, represented by DPIPW, work with Hydro Tasmania to ensure appropriate, best practice application of the guidelines issued by the Agricultural and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand.	NOTED		DPIPW	Complete As reported by Minister Barnett in the GBE hearings on 6 December 2018, Hydro Tasmania's cloud seeding operations have ceased and consistent with the government policy there are no plans to recommence operations: Minister Barnett: "Hydro Tasmania has achieved this careful management of Tasmania's energy security needs whilst honouring its commitment to the Government to cease cloud seeding operations and has done so since 2016. I can confirm today that cloud seeding operations in Tasmania have ceased."
9	That DPIPW examines the WMAwater report along with its own, analyses the differences, consults with the Forest Practices Authority and Environment Protection Authority, and proposes an appropriate course of action to Government.	ACCEPTED		DPIPW	Underway - Scheduled completion by March 2021. DPIPW has reviewed the WMAwater and Alluvium reports, and consulted with the Forest Practices Authority and Environment Protection Authority on recommendations for the Government to consider. A report is in DPIPW's internal approval processes and is expected to be finalised by March 2021.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
10	That DPIPWE examines the Forest Practice Code 2015 for relevance of its concepts to farming and other business activities near rivers, streams and naturally occurring dams and makes recommendations to Government accordingly.	ACCEPTED		DPIPWE	<p>Underway – Scheduled completion by March 2021</p> <p>A Forest Practices Authority led review of the <i>Forest Practices Code 2015</i> commenced in 2018. This review process has provided an opportunity to examine the relevance of concepts contained within the Code for farming and other business activities near rivers, streams and naturally occurring dams.</p> <p>Public and targeted consultation on the Code has been completed. Amendments to the Code are expected to be finalised and implemented by March 2021.</p> <p>The review has concluded that changes to the Code relevant to farming and other business activities near rivers, streams and naturally occurring dams are not necessary and will not address the key flood risk of water moving unimpeded across flood plains whose large vegetation has been removed. DPIPWE is currently identifying options for encouraging retention and/or revegetation in vulnerable riparian areas for the Government to consider. DPIPWE expects to finalise recommendations for the Government by March 2021.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
11	That DPIPWE clarifies responsibility for river restoration and riparian management and, having done so, communicates this to councils, landowners and other owners of relevant infrastructure.	ACCEPTED		DPIPWE	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPIPWE's work with landowners, community groups and other stakeholders on the Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme, Mersey Dasher Riparian Recovery Program, and other flood assistance programs is informing this action. DPIPWE has undertaken a preliminary review of the information on its website and identified that most of the Guidelines/Practices remain contemporary and useful tools; some information relating to policies and legislation requires updating to ensure that it is current. <p>There are a range of information sources available to help people understand their obligations when undertaking work in wetlands and/or waterways.</p> <p>NRM North has published a range of documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working near waterways – understanding your legal obligations (https://www.nrmnorth.org.au/client-assets/documents/factsheets-brochures/hrm/EDO_Waterways_Guide%202016.pdf) Guidelines for riparian fencing in flood-prone areas (https://www.nrmnorth.org.au/client-assets/documents/factsheets-brochures/hrm/Flood%20Fencing%20-%20Guidelines%20(Vic).pdf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPIPWE has information relating to the management of wetlands and waterways (https://dipwwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/flora-of-tasmania/tasmanias-wetlands/wetlands-waterways-works-manual). This includes information on: legislative and policy requirements; construction practices; excavating in waterways; managing large woody debris, etc. DPIPWE will continue to review information on the website as required. DPIPWE will share its learnings and work with the Environmental Defenders Office, which published the report 'Working near Waterways: Understanding your Legal Obligations Guidelines' (released August 2016), to inform any revisions to the guidelines that might be required.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
12	That heightened awareness and action is needed by communities when Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues flood watches and related warnings. Councils and SES need to facilitate this.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	<p>Underway – Scheduled completion June 2022.</p> <p>Through a relationship developed between SES, BoM, and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, targeted community engagement opportunities were identified. These opportunities included group activities scheduled for 2020 which have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to go ahead.</p> <p>\$1.7 million was allocated to SES across the forward estimates in the Tasmanian Government's 2020-21 budget for SES to employ additional staff to undertake community protection planning for flood and storm</p> <p>A \$100,000 Australian Government Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant was provided to SES in November 2020 to help implement the Tasmanian Government's response to Blake Flood Review recommendations 12 and 15.</p>
13	That the Flood Warning Consultative Committee considers the merits of delineating the Ouse River as a separate catchment from the Derwent River Basin.	NOTED	The FWCC is chaired by BoM	DPfEM (SES)	<p>Complete</p> <p>The FWCC has considered the merits of delineating the Ouse River as a separate catchment from the Derwent River Basin and does not recommend any changes to the BoM warning structure. Instead the FWCC recommends an education program for the community.</p>
14	Subject to funding, that the Flood Warning Consultative Committee investigates the hydrological matters and advice received during this Review and detailed in this Report in Sections 4.1.9 and 4.1.11.	NOTED	The FWCC is chaired by BoM	DPfEM (SES)	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Addressed in the <i>Tasmanian Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Assessment</i> Report endorsed by TFWCC in December 2018 and tabled at SEMC in March 2019.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov Lead	Progress
15	That the Flood Warning Consultative Committee reviews flood classification levels in the Service Level Specifications with BOM specifically relating to flood level triggers on gauges.	NOTED	The FWCC is chaired by BOM	DPfEM (SES)	Underway – Scheduled completion June 2022. Through a relationship developed between SES, BOM, and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, targeted community engagement opportunities were identified. These opportunities included group activities scheduled for 2020 which have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to go ahead. A \$100,000 Australian Government Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant was provided to SES in November 2020 to help implement the Tasmanian Government's response to Blake Flood Review recommendations 12 and 15.
16	That BOM and the Flood Warning Consultative Committee, in consultation with gauge owners, review flood gauges and develop a program to update data used to support hydrologic modelling. This should include reviewing gauge maintenance before and after floods.	NOTED	The FWCC is chaired by BOM	DPfEM (SES)	As at 3 August 2020 Underway – delivery integrated into business as usual. BOM is undertaking a project to re-calibrate hydrological models using historical flood data, including data from 2016. BOM will prepare a briefing paper for the Flood Warning Consultative Committee on learnings once this project is complete. Forth River: Complete, no changes required. Mersey River: Complete and operational. River Derwent: Complete, and operational. South Esk River: Complete, minor changes required. Huon River: Complete and operational. Meander River: Complete and operational. Jordan River: Review underway. North Esk: Review pending concurrent review by Launceston City Council. Macquarie River: Model being developed.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
17	That Government supports the anticipated SES State Flood Warning proposals aimed at improving public warnings and communication, and that the proposed warning system is consistent with the National Frameworks.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	<p>As at 5 August 2020</p> <p>This recommendation will not be completed by 30 November 2020.</p> <p>Major information technology elements of the SES Flood Alert System have been completed. The National Warnings Framework by the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has been approved. Once the national key message terminology has been approved, a public education and awareness campaign can be designed to support the implementation of the system.</p> <p>Additional funding will be required to finalise information technology elements of the system and deliver the public education and awareness campaign.</p>
18	That emergency management authorities react with heightened awareness and action when BOM issues flood watches and related warnings.	ACCEPTED		DPfEM (SES)	<p>Complete</p> <p>New regional and state activation protocols have been developed within SES since the 2016 floods. Compared to 2016 the level of awareness and preparatory activity has been significantly improved as evidenced by the May 2018 extreme weather event.</p> <p>The SES is building and strengthening a relationship at local and national levels with the BOM to gain insight into events and to also collaborate on public messaging.</p> <p>Joint media has been undertaken with SES and the BOM based on the significance of the pending event, this is a new initiative has been very successful in providing public awareness early and to reinforce SES preparatory messages.</p> <p>The SES have developed a range of preparedness documents, policies and procedures whereby, as an organisation, it is standing up capability (IMT for command and control) based on intelligence in anticipation of the event coming to fruition, rather than awaiting requests for assistance.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
19	That DPAC becomes the Management Authority for recovery in Tasmania.	ACCEPTED		DPAC	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Government has implemented new state-level recovery arrangements, under which DPAC will assume a lead agency role for state-level recovery across the Tasmanian Government.</p> <p>The role of the State Recovery Advisor has been legislated and allocated to DPAC through amendments to the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i>.</p>
20	That Government engages with non-government organisations that may provide services during emergency events to clarify the terms and conditions for support through a written arrangement (MOU or similar).	ACCEPTED		DPAC	<p>Complete</p> <p>DPAC has established the Recovery Partners Network, to support liaison and collaboration between government and non-government organisations involved in the delivery of a range of recovery services.</p> <p>DPAC is also working with other agencies to clarify and document all relevant arrangements with NGOs.</p> <p>Local governments are responsible for managing recovery centres and coordinating many recovery services at the local level. DPAC has provided local governments with a guideline outlining costs related to the provision of emergency assistance to individuals that can be reimbursed under the Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangements. This provides clarity for local governments in establishing service delivery arrangements with non-government organisations.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
21	That, in the event of a major emergency such as the June floods, a government department (DPAC or State Growth) be appointed to coordinate infrastructure repair, to the extent that funding allows, for the whole state. Individual entities will still have the right and responsibility to repair and maintain their own assets, but some central oversight and coordination is, in our view, likely to be beneficial.	ACCEPTED		State Growth	<p>Complete</p> <p>State Growth has established a process to liaise with infrastructure owners to gather impact and restoration planning information following major events.</p> <p>This information gathering process will be managed by the State Growth Emergency Management Coordinator.</p> <p>Once the overall infrastructure impact is known, this information will be provided to DPAC to manage and prioritise funding support.</p> <p>Key contact person details has been provided to State Growth by infrastructure owners to facilitate the management of this process should it be required.</p>
22	That the organisations responsible for construction, maintenance and ownership of bridges review their design guidelines and, if necessary, update them to specifically include consideration of debris and flood impacts on bridge design. A review of existing bridges by the responsible organisations could also be undertaken to highlight any potential issues.	NOTED	Applies to all bridge infrastructure owners	State Growth	<p>Complete – August 2019</p> <p>New bridges are built to contemporary national design guidelines and standards as appropriate. However, much of Tasmania's existing bridge stock was built prior to these standards.</p> <p>The Department of State Growth is also implementing 'Enhancing Tasmania's Bridge Infrastructure Emergency Management Planning', a project funded through a Natural Disaster Resilience Grant from the Australian Government.</p> <p>Phase 1 is complete. It involved consultation with councils, a review of State emergency bridging stock and bridge infrastructure response options and the development of a statewide response plan for temporary bridging.</p> <p>Phase 2 is complete, with off the shelf bridge component designs and documentation prepared, making it easier to rebuild quickly after an emergency.</p> <p>State Growth has also drafted a bailey bridging process and information sheet, and will soon commence consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition to this, LGAT has established more streamlined procurement processes which will further enhance local government's ability to respond after an event.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Comment	Tas Gov lead	Progress
23	That, to provide greater clarity for building development, design and approval within tolerable risk levels, the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, including a relevant Riverine Flood Hazard Code, is finalised and approved as soon as practicable.	NOTED		DoJ	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Government has delivered statewide planning codes relating to flood-prone areas and waterway protection as part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS). Concurrently, Building Standards and Occupational Licensing (BSOL) has developed building controls that will complement the TPS.</p> <p>The Code will come into effect when Local Provisions Schedules (LPS) are approved by the Planning Commission. LPS will be informed by outcomes of the Flood Mapping Project which is jointly funded by the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments (\$3 million over three years).</p>
24	That the State Emergency Management Committee allocates resources to reviewing all findings and recommendations in the Productivity Commission Report No. 74 relevant to Tasmania and, for those identified as relevant, actions taken and, if none, why not.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE	Underway Being addressed at the national level	DPAC	<p>Complete - December 2018</p> <p>The Office of Security and Emergency Management provided a report to the State Emergency Management Committee in December 2018.</p>

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34 Tasmania Flood Mapping Project

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State
Emergency
Management
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TASMANIA FLOOD MAPPING PROJECT

Related Brief/s:	<u>Floods – Blake Review</u>	33
	<u>Flood Support to Local Government</u>	35

Speaking Points

- The Tasmania Flood Mapping Project was developed following severe floods in 2016. The 2016 floods made it clear that we need a better understanding of Tasmania's strategic flood risk, so we can effectively invest in more flood resilient Tasmanian communities.
- The three-year project, expected to conclude in June 2022, was jointly funded (\$3 million) by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The project aimed to:
 - ensure our communities have access to a high-resolution digital terrain model, which is available online through LiSTmap
 - undertake the Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map to support a flood hazard assessment, which is currently being developed in partnership between engineering analysts WMA Water, water industry software developers Innovyse and the SES, and
 - develop and support grants for local government to undertake detailed flood studies and evacuation planning for communities most exposed to flooding.

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- The Project is making good progress and is well into the Strategic Flood Mapping stage.
- All outputs will be publicly available for use free of charge to assist government, municipal councils, communities, businesses, and households to make flood risk management decisions that are informed by the most up-to-date information.

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Background

- The 2016 *Tasmanian State Disaster Risk Assessment* identifies flooding as one of the State's highest natural disaster related risks.
- There is a long history of flooding in Tasmania that has been well-documented and studied over time. Flood records and studies are important information sources for understanding the flood risks within the State, but the records are incomplete and limited when interpreting future flood risk across Tasmania.
- Subsequent to the June 2016 floods, the Tasmanian Government initiated an independent strategic review of the floods. Mr Mike Blake led the review.
- The review produced a report which included 24 recommendations and identified many of the flood knowledge gaps that currently exist.
- The *Tasmanian Flood Mapping Project* (TSFMP) responds to recommendations 4 and 5 of the review report.
- Joint funding from the Tasmanian and Australian Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements was confirmed in February 2018 for the TSFMP.
- All outputs will be publicly available for use free of charge to assist government, municipal councils, communities, businesses, and households make flood risk management decisions that are informed by the most up-to-date information.

Financial Considerations

- The project has \$3 million in funding equally split between the Australian Government and the Tasmanian Government.
- The table below outlines the expected expenditure of the \$3 million across the three sub-projects within the TSFMP. Each year's expenditure includes project management and support costs.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Lidar (digital terrain mapping)		1,000,000		
TSFMP			1,150,000	
Detailed flood studies				850,000
Total				3,000,000

[Source: Information System (data extracted: 25 September 2020)]

- The ongoing support for the outputs of the project will be managed within the State Emergency Services Flood Policy Unit budget.

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35. Flood Support to Local Government

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1 State Emergency Management Services

BRIEF NUMBER

35

FLOOD SUPPORT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Related Brief/s:	<u>Tasmania Flood Mapping Project</u>	34
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Speaking Points

- The State Emergency Service (SES) is undertaking the *Tasmanian Community Flood Planning Pilot* project, funded by an Australian Government Prepared Communities Grant. The project will deliver local flood guides and community flood planning for the St Marys, Railton and Huonville communities. The SES is working closely with Break O'Day, Kentish and Huon Valley Councils on this project.
- The SES received funding in the 2019-20 budget to employ an emergency management planner in each of the three regions. The planners will assist Municipal Emergency Management Committees undertake local emergency management planning and support emergency management education.
- The Tasmanian Government has contributed \$1 million towards implementing flood mitigation measures for the township of Latrobe. The Australian Government has committed a further \$3.4 million to implement these measures. Detailed design work is complete and approval processes have commenced.
- The Australian Government has committed \$3.5 million to implement flood mitigation measures for Railton. Preliminary design work for these measures is underway.

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- All councils are currently in the process of implementing the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* and are preparing a Local Provisions Schedule (LPS). The SES is reviewing all draft LPSs for consistency in addressing flood risk through land use planning.

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Background

- As a consequence of the June 2016 floods, the *Minimising Flood Risk in Latrobe and Surrounding Areas* (MFRLSA) project was funded through the *Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program* (NDRGP).
- As part of the MFRLSA project, Latrobe Council engaged specialist power and water consulting firm, Entura to conduct a structural flood protection study and an assessment of options for the Latrobe township based on the 2016 floods.
- Entura's report, *Minimising Flood Risk in Latrobe: Hydraulic modelling and levee options assessment*, was released at the end of June 2018.
- The study is based on one per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). AEP refers to the likelihood of a flood of a given size or larger occurring in any one year. For example, if a peak flood discharge of 500 m³/s has a five per cent AEP, this means there is a five per cent (or 1-in-20) risk of a peak flood discharge of that volume or larger occurring in any one year.
- The Entura report identified four options to address the risk of flooding to Latrobe, ranging in cost from \$650,000.00 to \$4.5 million. The recommended option (Option D) is designed to protect the township of Latrobe from a 0.33 per cent AEP flood event.
- The Tasmanian Government's contribution of \$1 million towards implementing flood mitigation measures for the township of Latrobe was paid to Latrobe Council on 14 December 2018.
- Kentish Council previously received NDRGP funding for a review of flood mitigation options for Railton by SEMF Pty Ltd. A report on that study was published on 30 June 2014 and updated on 25 February 2016.
- In July 2018, Kentish Council submitted a proposal to the Premier based on the SEMF report for mitigation options to manage the risks posed by a one per cent AEP flood. In December 2018, a revised proposal was subsequently submitted by Kentish Council to the Premier to manage the risks posed by a 0.5 per cent AEP flood.
- The Australian Government has committed \$3.5 million towards flood mitigation works in Railton.
- Huon Valley Council received NDRGP funding for a similar study to be conducted by Entura in Huonville. A report on that study was delivered in late 2018.
- Burnie City Council received NDRGP funding to undertake the *Emu River Flood Study*. A final report was tabled at a Council meeting on 16 April 2019, where the final report and three initial management options recommended in the report were endorsed.
- The Burnie City Council has not approached the SES regarding funding for the three endorsed options at this stage. The report to Council noted that there was an opportunity to work with the SES in delivering the community education option, and that funding for warning systems were being considered at a national level by the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.

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- The Australian Government has provided \$400,000.00 in Community Development Program funding to Break O'Day Council for flood mitigation options recommended in the *St Marys Flood Risk Management Report*.
- The Department of State Growth is administering the Grant Deed for \$1 million between the State Government and Latrobe Council for the Latrobe mitigation works.
- There is currently no dedicated national or state funding source to routinely finance the establishment of structural flood mitigation works in Tasmania.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Regional EM planning and development ¹	0	0	0	323,000
Latrobe flood mitigation grant ²	0	0	1,000,000	0
Total	0	0	1,000,000	323,000

Note 1- [Source: Budget Paper No.2, 2019-20 Tasmanian State Government]

Note 2- [2019-20 Budget and Forward Estimates, Department of Treasury]

Financial Considerations

- Amounts shown above only include Tasmanian Government contributions and exclude Australian Government grants and co-contributions from Municipal Councils.
- The Latrobe flood mitigation grant is administered by The Department of State Growth.
- There is currently no dedicated national or state funding source to routinely finance the establishment of structural flood mitigation works in Tasmania.
- The funding for the Regional EM planning and development capability is currently for four years only, with plans to request ongoing funding to permanently support this capability.

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36. National Partnership Agreement – Natural Disaster Resilience (SES)

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1 State Emergency Management Services

BRIEF NUMBER

36

**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – NATURAL
DISASTER RESILIENCE (SES)**

Related Brief/s:		
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Speaking Points

- Through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience and the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, the Tasmanian and Australian Governments work together to strengthen the resilience of Tasmanian communities to natural disasters.
- The Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program provides \$5.22 million in Australian Government funding to Tasmania over a five-year period from 2019 to 2024.
- Rounds one and two of the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program are being conducted concurrently.
- Applications closed on 23 August 2020 and were assessed by a panel drawn from the sub committees of the State Emergency Management Committee.
- The assessment process is now completed, and administrative action is being undertaken to finalise the Grant Deeds and Memorandums of Understanding. This process is expected to be completed by the end of November.

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Background

- On 13 March 2020, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) and signed the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPA).
- The Tasmanian Implementation Plan was approved by the Hon. Mark Shelton MP on 11 June 2020. The Plan sets out the distribution lines of the NDRRG and the funding allocation of \$5.22 million in Australian Government funding. The Plan is structured as follows:
 - **State Initiatives** - to support the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in delivering natural disaster risk reduction projects at a state level.
 - Funding allocation 40% (\$417,600 annually),
 - **Local Initiatives** - to support Tasmanian communities in delivering natural disaster risk reduction projects at a local level.
 - Funding allocation 30% (\$313,200 annually)
 - **Volunteer Group Initiatives** - to support Tasmanian Volunteer Groups in delivering natural disaster risk reduction projects within their area of focus.
 - Funding allocation 19% (\$198,350 annually)
 - **Emergency Management Framework Support Program (EMFSP)** - to support governance and oversight of the funding programs, including costs associated with program administration.
 - Funding allocation 11% (\$114,850 annually).
- Applications for round one and two of the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program closed on 23 August 2020 with 29 applications being received.
- The SEMC agreed to establish a small Assessment Team to review the applications and make recommendations to the Chairs of the SEMC sub committees for endorsement and approval by the State Controller.
- A small number of existing projects under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, the Prepared Communities Fund and the Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Program are ongoing. The grant coordinator within the State Emergency Service is continuing to work with project officers to ensure timely completion of these projects.

Financial Considerations

- Grant recipients are required to match the Australian Government contribution dollar for dollar. This can be achieved through cash and/or in-kind contributions from the recipients.

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37. Progress with Emergency Management Reforms

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

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4.1
State Emergency
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**PROGRESS WITH EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT REFORMS**

Related Brief/s:	Tasmania Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA)	41
	Legislation Reform	52
	Natural Disasters Reviews	97

Speaking Points

- Significant emergency management reforms have been achieved following the 2014-15 independent review of Tasmania's emergency management arrangements.
- This review was undertaken by the Department of Justice following the Hyde Inquiry into the 2013 Tasmanian bushfires, and made 52 recommendations.
- 39 of the recommendations have been completed, largely as a result of several associated reforms, such as:
 - amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, which received Royal Assent in December 2018
 - new Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements, approved in December 2019
 - provision of new State Emergency Service staffing, funded in 2019-20, to better support municipal authorities with emergency management planning and education
 - new State and municipal recovery arrangements, and

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- improved governance arrangements, including the establishment of the Ministerial Committee for Emergency Management.
- 13 recommendations require ongoing attention. Seven of these require lessons to be agreed and incorporated into the State Control Centre Guidelines following the current COVID-19 State Control Centre activation.
- The six remaining recommendations aim to deliver additional resources for a multi-agency exercise and lessons management capability, community protection planning and municipality development. Funding options are being considered.

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Background

- The independent review of Tasmania's emergency management arrangements was undertaken by the Department of Justice (DoJ) in 2014-15 as a result of recommendation 100 of the Hyde Inquiry into the 2013 Tasmanian bushfires.
- In November 2015, Cabinet agreed to adopt all 52 recommendations from the DoJ review and requested that the Budget Committee consider the financial implications of accepting the recommendations.
- Under the oversight of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), the Emergency Management Reforms (EMR) Project commenced in 2016. The project aimed to build a Business Case for the implementation of emergency management reforms arising from the 52 recommendations of the DoJ review.
- Of the 52 recommendations:
 - 39 are completed
 - seven are partially completed, and
 - six are ongoing and require additional funding and resources.
- Completion of the 39 recommendations were achieved with the following primary reforms:
 - amendments to the *Emergency Management Act 2006* received Royal Assent on 10 December 2018 (flexible and graduated levels of emergency, new declaration of a state of alert, clarity regarding municipal responsibilities, new recovery arrangements, plus numerous updates)
 - Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) received Ministerial approval on 10 December 2019
 - funding from the 2019-20 State Budget for three Regional Emergency Management Planner positions to better support municipal authorities with emergency management planning and education;
 - new comprehensive State and municipal recovery arrangements, and
 - improved governance arrangements, including the establishment of the Ministerial Committee for Emergency Management.
- Of the seven recommendations that are partially completed, these require a post-COVID-19 update of the State Control Centre Guidelines to ensure alignments with lessons learned, the amended legislation and with TEMA.
- The six ongoing recommendations require additional funding/resources and have been the subject of past (and current) State budget submissions to achieve the following reforms:
 - multi-agency, all hazard exercise and lessons management capability, including funding for exercises and the treatment of lessons identified, and
 - additional planning and development for municipal stakeholders, in the form of local community protection planning and development resources for all hazard areas (not just bushfire).
- Budget submissions for these outstanding reforms continue to be considered.
- The attached spreadsheet provides a summary on achievements and progress with all 52 recommendations.

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Financial Considerations

- Budget submissions to address the six recommendations that require additional resources continue to be submitted for consideration as part of a proposed 'Emergency Management Reform and Community Flood Resilience Program'.
- Two options were submitted for the 2020-21 budget cycle:

Option 1 (Preferred Option)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1. All-hazard multi-agency Exercise and Lessons Management Unit with Exercise Fund and Lessons Management Fund (3 x DPFEM salaries (Band 7, 6 and 5) and op/admin expenses)	582	673	733	743
1. Community Protection Planning for flood and storm hazard (4 x DPFEM salaries (all Band 5 – 3 x Protection Planners and 1 x Spatial Analyst) and op/admin expenses)	420	472	488	505
2. Community Development for flood and storm hazard (3 x DPFEM salaries (all Band 5) and op/admin expenses)	429	473	488	503
3. Administration support for Emergency Management Unit (1 x DPFEM salary (Band 3) and op/admin expenses)	65	74	76	77
Total Cost	1,496	1,692	1,785	1,828

- The preferred Option 1 proposes nine full time and permanent salaried positions. The resources for the Exercise and Lessons Management Unit and the Community Protection Planning have equal priority.

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Option 2	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1. All-hazard multi-agency exercise and Lessons Management Unit with Exercise Fund and Lessons Management Fund (3x DPFEM salaries (B7, 6 and 5) and op/admin expenses)	582	673	733	743
1. Community Protection Planning and Development for flood and storm hazard (5x DPFEM salaries (4x B5 and 1x B6) and op/admin expenses)	612	681	700	721
2. Administration support for Emergency Management Unit (1x DPFEM salary (B3) and op/admin expenses)	65	74	76	77
Total Cost	1,259	1,428	1,509	1,541

- Option 2 combines the Community Protection Planning and Community Development functions into only three salaried position, however, it includes one state-wide coordinator/manager to support the extra workload. The resources for the Exercise and Lessons Management Unit and the combined Community Protection Planning and Development Officers have equal priority.

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38. Search and Rescue Activities

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.2
State Security
and
Rescue Operations

BRIEF NUMBER

38

FACT SHEET
SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES

Related Brief/s:	Budget Variations - DPFEM	44
	Budget Chapter 2019-20 – Performance Measures DPFEM	45
	Government Commitments Progress of Initiatives	47

Quick Facts

- Tasmania Police undertakes search and rescue activities deploying helicopter and marine rescue resources as needed. This includes marine rescues in Tasmanian and other waters as requested by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).
- Tasmania's search and rescue capability are supplemented by a dedicated and valued volunteer contingent for a range of land and marine activities, supported by police Search and Rescue personnel and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Helicopter Air-Rescue Services

- The Westpac Rescue Helicopter is crewed by Marine and Rescue Services and Ambulance Tasmania members and is deployed statewide on request from Tasmania Police, Ambulance Tasmania or AMSA.
- A contract between the State Government and Rotorlift Aviation is managed by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) and provides for air

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search and rescue, patient retrieval and aero-medical support services.

- Contract arrangements with Rotorlift Aviation allow for the provision of two BK 117 helicopters available 24 hours, seven days per week at a cost of approximately \$8 million per annum (GST inclusive). The contract expires in June 2022 and a multi-agency project team is currently working to secure a future contract.

Marine and Land rescue

- Tasmania Police is supported by the State Emergency Service (SES) and bushwalking clubs in a volunteer capacity for land-based searches. The searches are conducted in response to incidents such as Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) activations by bushwalkers, often when accessibility by helicopter is not achievable due to weather or other issues.
- Marine and Rescue Services conduct rescue operations under the auspices of the AMSA, predominantly in relation to emergency beacon activations (EPIRB).
- Surf Life Saving Tasmania (SLST) and DPFEM operate under Response Support Arrangements. SLST has provided Tasmania Police members with training in swift water rescue and also provides equipment and volunteers to respond as required to water-based incidents.
- Tasmania Police is aware of the limitations faced by volunteer organisations and exercises due diligence when considering requesting assistance with rescue activities.

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Helicopter Search and Rescue and Aero-Medical Retrieval Services

Helicopter Flying Hours	2018-19	2019-20
Search and Rescue	298	372
Police Operations	93	90
Flight Crew Training	154	218
Ambulance Tasmania	322	455
AMSA	14	9
Total	881	1,144

[Source: Annual Corporate Performance Report – Jun 2020][BACK TO TOP](#)

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39. SES Funding Levels and Model

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State Emergency
Management
Services

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39

SES FUNDING LEVELS AND MODEL

Related Brief/s:	<u>SES Support to Emergencies</u>	40
	<u>SES Volunteers</u>	42
	<u>Review of Fire Services Act 1979</u>	113

Speaking Points

- The State Emergency Service (SES) maintains a skilled and capable volunteer workforce of 600. It responds 24/7 to emergencies including floods, storms, road crashes and search and rescue.
- The SES also provides support for other emergencies such as bushfires and COVID-19.
- The SES is responsible for a broad range of emergency management functions involving planning, flood policy, and the administration of risk management and resilience building programs.
- The SES receives funding of almost 4.5 million dollars from several sources: consolidated revenue, the State Fire Commission and the Motor Accidents Insurance Board.
- Under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, the SES also relies on Tasmanian councils to fund the establishment, maintenance and operations of municipal SES volunteer units.

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- While the SES does not have direct control of these funds, expenditure is negotiated with the councils with the support of agreed memoranda of understanding.
- Under these arrangements, the councils take ownership of municipal SES unit vehicles, support unit facilities and fund the day-to-day running expenses of SES units.
- These arrangements add considerable complexity and uncertainty to budget and asset management.
- Recommendations for a sustainable funding model for the SES is included as part of the review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

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Background

- The SES has direct control of funding allocations totalling \$4.49 million from consolidated revenue, the State Fire Commission and the Motor Accidents Insurance Board. \$3.1 million of this is expended on salaries for 31 permanent staff (five additional fixed term project staff). \$1.4 million is available for non-salary expenditure.
- The SES controlled budget for 2020-21 is summarised below:

2020-21 Budget Revenue Source (\$,000)		Expenditure (\$,000)		
		State Service Salaries	Non-Salaries	Total
DPFEM	1,318	3,080	1,061	4,141
State Fire Commission	2,823			
MAIB	350	-	350	350
Total	4,491	3,080	1,411	4,491

[Source: WHICH Information System (data extracted: September 2020)]

- The SES funding model is also reliant upon contributions from Tasmanian councils, under sections 48 and 49 of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. In summary, the councils are responsible for the establishment and maintenance of municipal SES volunteer units and the operations of those units in order to meet the SES responsibilities within their *Municipal Emergency Management Plan*.
- In practice, these responsibilities are clarified under three-yearly memoranda of understanding (MOU) between the SES and all councils except West Tamar (12 expired MOUs are currently under review). In summary, the majority of these MOU divide the responsibilities up as follows:
 - **Council:**
 - Provision of SES volunteer unit facilities in accordance with SES standards (Note: More than half the SES unit facilities are now owned by TFS, Police or Ambulance authorities, many of these with the SES unit co-located).
 - Own, register, fuel and maintain SES unit operational vehicles per SES standards.
 - Insure the above council owned assets used by the SES.
 - Meet recurrent costs associated with the day-to-day running of the unit, such as consumables, utility costs, telephones, and administration.
 - **SES:**
 - Contribution towards the purchase of replacement SES unit operational vehicles, including the provision of SES livery, flashing lights and communications.

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- Provision of major items of operational and training equipment, such as hydraulic rescue tools, pumps, radios/pagers, ladders, and chain saws.
 - Provisions of Personal Protective Equipment/Clothing and uniforms to each SES volunteer.
 - Provision of all SES volunteer training, and
 - Management of SES operations.
- The SES funding model has been deemed to be unsustainable for some time for the following reasons:
 - managing strategic assets under these arrangements is complex and difficult, particularly with compliance with SES standards and desired timelines under the Strategic Asset Management Plan;
 - the level of support provided by councils varies markedly depending on the size of the council and competing funding pressures;
 - the SES is unable to budget effectively due to the inability to forecast contributions from local government, which are not guaranteed; and
 - the SES lacks full control of the management of critical strategic assets such as facilities and vehicles. There are often lengthy and difficult periods of negotiations with each council.
 - The review of a more sustainable funding model for the SES has since been incorporated into the review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, currently being undertaken by Mr Mike Blake. He is scheduled to release a report to government following final targeted consultation.

S 27 - Exemption Applied

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S 27 - Exemption Applied

Financial Considerations

- The funding implications of a new and centralised SES funding model are yet to be fully assessed. A move towards a centralised model will require close consultation with local government and the implementation of an agreed asset transition plan.
- In February 2016, a costing analysis of the Tasmania SES by Wise, Lord and Ferguson was progressed. In April 2017, the development by DPFEM of draft options for sustainably funding the SES was also progressed. However, more work is required to determine the future funding needs of the SES under a more sustainable and centralised funding model.

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40. SES Support to Emergencies

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State Emergency
Services
Management

BRIEF NUMBER

40

SES SUPPORT TO EMERGENCIES

Related Brief/s:	<u>SES Volunteers</u>	42
	<u>Quarantine Compliance Checking</u>	127
	<u>Impact to the Frontline – Changes to Fire and SES Operational Services during COVID-19</u>	133

Speaking Points

- Tasmania's State Emergency Service (SES) has 31 salaried staff and 600 committed volunteers. They provide considerable support in all types of emergencies.
- For example, since March, SES volunteers have provided significant support to Tasmania Police with COVID-19 quarantine compliance checks.
- This is not a typical task for SES volunteers, but they willingly took on the role to support the COVID-19 response, to help Tasmania Police and to ensure our communities stay safe.
- The COVID-19 response was in addition to SES volunteers' usual commitments with:
 - flood and storm emergencies
 - road crash rescue
 - search and rescue, and
 - operational support to the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) during bushfires.

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- For the 2019-20 financial year, SES volunteers contributed almost 19 thousand hours of emergency contact, which is a record.
- SES is committed to operational support and training our SES volunteers. They provide broader emergency management support across State, regional and municipal emergency management authorities.
- During the COVID-19 response, SES staff:
 - took a leading ongoing role in operational planning for the State Control Centre
 - provided a critical liaison role with Emergency Management Australia and the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and
 - coordinated SES, TFS and ADF staging area operations for COVID-19 compliance check operations.
- We acknowledge the contributions of our SES volunteers and staff and thank them for their time, dedication, and commitment to Tasmanian communities.

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Background

- The Tasmania SES relies on a skilled and motivated volunteer workforce of 600 volunteers across 36 units to undertake 24/7 emergency response for the following emergency situations:
 - storm and severe weather events (200-900 call-outs and 1,000-4,000 contact hours per year)
 - flood events (10-100 call-outs and 100-1,000 contact hours per year)
 - road crash rescue (300-500 call-outs and 2,000-4,000 contact hours per year)
 - search and rescue / vertical rescue (30-50 call-outs and 2,000 contact hours per year), and
 - miscellaneous operational support to local councils, TFS, Tasmania Police, and others (50-450 call-outs and 300-8,000 contact hours).
- The table below shows the contributions of SES volunteers over 2019-20.

SES Volunteer Contributions	2019-20
Total SES volunteer call-outs	1,170
Total SES volunteer emergency contact hours *	14,206 (increasing)

[Source: WHICH Information System (data extracted September 2020)]

* Does not include 4,773 hours dedicated to COVID-19 compliance checking.

- Non-emergency functions of the SES include:
 - training (16,577 volunteer student hours per year)
 - public safety engagement, e.g., driver reviver, shows, displays/demonstrations, recruitment, etc. (3,075 volunteer hours per year), and
 - unit administration/management, maintenance, etc.
- SES volunteers are spending increasing amounts of time supporting 'miscellaneous' emergency support operations. Recent examples include emergency support to:
 - TFS during bushfire operations, through support activities such as staging area management/support, rapid impact assessment, logistics, door knocking, transport, and communications, and
 - Tasmania Police for COVID-19 compliance checks, to ensure people quarantining or isolating at home comply with public health requirements.
- SES volunteers are supported by SES management (salaried staff) within regional and State Headquarters. Management provide day-to-day support, incident management/control, training, procurement, and a great deal of care towards our volunteers.

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- Because of the emergency management functions of the SES under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*, SES staff also supports broader emergency management functions. These are:
 - executive and secretariat support to the State Emergency Management Committee. This includes liaison between State and Federal emergency management authorities such as Emergency Management Australia, Crisis Coordination Centre, and the Australian Defence Force)
 - executive and secretariat support to the Regional Emergency Management Committees and their Regional Controllers. This includes the provision of emergency management support and advice to municipal emergency management authorities, and
 - coordination of emergency management planning.

Financial Considerations

- SES volunteers provide their time for training and emergency operations at no cost to the State Government.
- Research shows that emergency services volunteers are more likely to stay on as volunteers if they are supported with good training and the resources necessary for them to effectively help their communities.

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41. Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA)

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State Emergency
Management
Training

BRIEF NUMBER
41

**TASMANIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ARRANGEMENTS (TEMA)**

Related Brief/s:	<u>Progress with Emergency Management Reforms</u>	37
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Speaking Points

- Issue 1 of the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) was approved by me, as Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, on 10 December 2019.
- The TEMA define activities that mitigate risks, outlines whole-of-State, regional and municipal preparedness measures and describes how to effectively respond to, and recover from, the impacts of emergencies.
- The arrangements are flexible, scalable, dynamic and responsive to change.
- The TEMA are established by the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and are reviewed every two years to ensure relevance and currency.
- Tasmania adopts a resilience-based approach focused on reducing risks so that we are all better able to withstand and recover from emergencies.
- Everyone has a part to play in reducing risks and being prepared, as outlined in the *Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy 2020–2025*.

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Background

- The TEMA replaced the *Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan* as recommended by the 2014/15 Department of Justice (DoJ) independent review of Tasmania's emergency management arrangements.
- The TEMA are supported by a range of hazard specific state special emergency management plans, regional emergency management plans, and municipal emergency management plans.
- The TEMA provide essential information for people who have a direct involvement in emergency management:
 - full time
 - an occasional part of their normal duties, or
 - as an emergency service volunteer.
- The TEMA outline the 'who', 'what' and 'when' of emergency management arrangements so the roles, authorities and responsibilities for emergency management are clearly articulated. This includes governance, administrative and legal frameworks; and defines the planning and management arrangements that bring all the different elements together
- Tasmania has integrated 'man-made' hazards into the TEMA, so these arrangements apply to emergency events in Tasmania irrespective of cause.
- TEMA now recognises that response and recovery agencies work in partnership with individuals and communities to ensure Tasmanians' safety during and after emergencies.
- After outlining the context in which Tasmania's emergency management arrangements operate, the TEMA describe roles, responsibilities and agreed arrangements for the four phases of emergency management, abbreviated to PPRR:
 - Prevention (mitigation)
 - Preparedness
 - Response, and
 - Recovery.

Financial Considerations

- Nil.

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42. SES Volunteers

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 4.1
State Emergency
Management
Services

BRIEF NUMBER
42

SES VOLUNTEERS

Related Brief/s:	<u>SES Support to Emergencies</u>	40
	<u>SES Funding levels and model</u>	39
	<u>Costs to the Department to Deliver COVID-19 Response, including Police Enforcement</u>	118
	<u>Quarantine Compliance Checking</u>	127
	<u>Impact to the Frontline – Changes to Fire and SES Operational Services during COVID-19</u>	133

Speaking Points

- Tasmanians can be proud of the significant commitment and efforts of their SES volunteers.
- Tasmania's 600 active SES volunteers are skilled and prepared to provide an essential 24/7 response service.
- Each year on average, SES volunteers across 36 volunteer units respond to around 1,000 emergency callouts.
- They respond to floods, storms, road crashes, search and rescue incidents and other callouts to support councils, Tasmania Police and the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS).
- Annual SES volunteer contact hours are increasing significantly, with 19,000 emergency contact hours last Financial Year, a new record. About a quarter of those hours were for COVID-19 quarantine compliance check operations.
- SES volunteers usually commit to over 25,000 hours of training each year. Despite earlier COVID-19 restrictions on

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group activities, they have still undertaken 16,500 hours last Financial Year, which is a significant commitment.

- A large proportion of their operational commitment is now in support of the TFS and Tasmania Police during bushfires, with staging management support, rapid impact assessment, logistics, evacuations and traffic management.
- We thank our SES volunteers for their incredible commitment, and those who support them; their families and employers who support their emergency callouts.

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Background

- The State Emergency Service is established under the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and is part of a national identity.
- The Tasmania SES relies on a skilled and motivated volunteer workforce of 600 volunteers across 36 units to undertake 24/7 emergency response for the following emergency situations (statistics are for FY 2019-20):
 - storm and severe weather events (233 call-outs and 1,345 contact hours),
 - flood events (11 call-outs and 60 contact hours),
 - road crash rescue (474 call-outs and 3,528 contact hours, a 20% increase from the previous year),
 - search and rescue / vertical rescue (35 call-outs and 1,254 contact hours) and,
 - miscellaneous operational support to councils, TFS, Tasmania Police, etc (417* call-outs and 12,792 contact hours, an 18% increase from the previous year and a new record).

Volunteer Contributions	2019-20
Total SES volunteer call-outs:	1,170*
Total SES volunteer emergency contact hours	18,979

[Source: WHICH Information System (data extracted September 2020)]

* Does not include 4,773 hours dedicated to COVID-19 compliance checking.

* Does not include callouts for COVID-19 compliance checking.

- Non-emergency functions include:
 - training (16,577 volunteer student hours per year)
 - public safety engagement, e.g., driver reviver, shows, displays/demonstrations, recruitment, etc. (3,075 volunteer hours per year)
 - unit administration/management, maintenance, etc.
- SES volunteers are spending increasing amounts of time supporting bushfire operations with activities like staging management support, rapid impact assessment, logistics, door knocking, evacuations and traffic management.
- SES volunteers are supported by SES management (salaried staff) within regional and State Headquarters who provide day-to-day management support, incident management/control, training, procurement and a great deal of care towards our volunteers.
- SES volunteer numbers are being sustained at 600 or above across the State - 29% female and 71% male. The average age of volunteers is 45. The average years of service has remained steady at 8.35 years, with some volunteers having served in excess of 40 years.
- SES volunteer numbers, particularly in urban areas, are adequate given current resources and demands, however, the SES can benefit from more volunteers in

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rural areas. The SES is currently reviewing volunteer capacity against the recent Resource to Risk review.

- The SES conducted a five yearly SES Volunteer Survey in November/December 2019. The results will provide valuable information on trends regarding motivations, out-of-pocket expenses, and role satisfaction, as well as views regarding training, resources, management, work health and safety and equity and diversity.
- The Tasmanian SES Volunteer Association (TSVA) formed in 2019 and has close ties with the National SES Volunteer Association. The SES Director and President of the TSVA maintains close contact and a productive relationship.
- SES volunteer unit facilities, vehicles and resources are supported by councils per sections 48 and 49 of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- In practice SES volunteer unit support arrangements are clarified within memoranda of understanding between the SES and the councils. Long standing arrangements require the councils to own and maintain SES unit vehicles on behalf of the SES. The SES makes a contribution towards the purchase of new vehicles (limited to \$120K per year).
- The existing funding model for the SES, has been deemed unsustainable and is being reviewed as part of the ongoing review of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.
- Depending on the role of the units, most municipal SES volunteer units have two operational vehicles. This includes some special purpose vehicles, such as ATVs and command and communications vehicles. The SES relies on a fleet of 106 vehicles, most of which, are owned by the councils.
- The main motivations for joining and remaining an SES volunteer are (per 2019 SES Volunteer Survey):
 - giving back to the community;
 - rewarding nature of the work; and
 - learning new skills.
- Results of the 2019 SES volunteer Survey suggests 81% of SES volunteers agree or strongly agree that the equipment they use is adequate for the job it is intended.

Financial Considerations

- The SES volunteer workforce commits to all emergency callouts 24/7 and to all necessary training and preparations without pay.

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- The SES achieves all necessary asset/resource procurement, administration, training and operational services with the following budget – this budget also supports broader emergency management planning and education functions and a Flood Policy Unit:

2020-21 Budget		Expenditure (\$,000)		
Revenue Source (\$,000)		SS Salaries	Non-Salaries	Total
DPFEM	1,318	3,080	1,061	4,141
State Fire Commission	2,823			
MAIB	350	-	350	350
Total	4,491	3,080	1,411	4,491

- Additional funding is provided by the Department to support SES operations, and is not included in the table.

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133. Impact to The Frontline – Changes To Fire And SES Operational Services During COVID-19

2020-21 BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

OUTPUT 90
COVID-19
Response &
Recovery

BRIEF NUMBER

133

IMPACT TO THE FRONTLINE – CHANGES TO FIRE AND SES OPERATIONAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19

Related Brief/s:	<u>SES Support to Emergencies</u>	40
	<u>SES Volunteers</u>	42

Speaking Points

- Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) will continue to provide service delivery to core functions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If COVID-19 results in a decrease in available frontline staff, TFS and SES will enact contingency plans and can implement a revised attendance model.

Tasmania Fire Service

- There has been no discernible impact to frontline service delivery for TFS as a result of COVID-19. TFS has provided support to COVID-19 operational activities when called upon (such as assistance with compliance checking).
- To maintain response capability, trigger points have been established for all alert levels and a heightened level of dispatch information is provided to crews to risk-assess potential exposure to COVID-19 at incidents.

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- In June 2020, training of TFS personnel resumed with appropriate controls in place.
- Contingency plans have been implemented to enable ongoing response capability to ensure the safety of TFS personnel and the community in the COVID-19 context.
- Contingency plans include clear separation of frontline crews, variation to rosters, redeployment of support staff to frontline operations, and increased utilisation of appropriately skilled volunteers in urban environments.
- As part of strategic planning and preparations for the bushfire season, TFS is undertaking 'COVID safe' planning for operations, including looking at the planning arrangements for interstate assistance, should this be required.
- TFS has prepared a scalable and agile set of arrangements that can be activated in the unlikely event that interstate assistance is required during this bushfire season.
- These arrangements incorporate the full suite of measures within the TFS COVID-19 Safe Response Support Plan to minimise COVID-19 risks whilst facilitating prompt and effective interstate support, should it be required, to protect Tasmania from significant fires.

State Emergency Service

- All SES Units have remained operationally viable and effective, not only for the usual emergency services such as flood/storm response, road crash rescue and search and rescue, but also for a significant commitment to COVID-19 compliance checking operations across the State.
- Several staff members are actively engaged in the State Control Centre planning team as well as within Regional Emergency Coordination Centres.

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Background**Tasmania Fire Service**

- TFS has developed Business Continuity Plans for all business units. These plans remain subject to change in order to address the changing nature of this pandemic. Work from home arrangements are in place where appropriate.
- TFS has separated double crewed stations at Launceston and Hobart to reduce impacts should infection occur.
- Community Fire Safety is undertaking building inspections on a case by case basis to meet legislative compliance.
- TFS has determined a number of rostering strategies to accommodate career fire station shift relief in the event that a crew needs to be placed into isolation or staffing numbers are reduced. This includes supporting impacted areas by relocating staff across regions.

State Emergency Service

- The SES was impacted by the application of risk controls (such as restrictions for vulnerable persons) which prevented around 20% of the volunteer workforce with COVID-19 risk factors from undertaking SES group activities such as operational callouts and Unit training.
- Several SES volunteers with risk factors have returned to duty subject to strict adherence to additional risk controls within the workplace.
- With regards to staffing, arrangements are in place for Unit response capabilities to be supplemented by other Units, if any Unit capabilities are affected by COVID-19. In extreme cases, resource support from TFS may be required to supplement certain SES capabilities affected by COVID-19.

Financial Considerations

- Not applicable.

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