



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Our Ref: 16772-04; 13-2040
Your Ref:

Mr Ray Hooper
Shire of York
PO Box 22
YORK WA 6302

SHIRE OF YORK	
FILE	PS-FES-4
OFFICER	INITIALS
FLYNN	
JUSTIN	
28 MAY 2013	
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REFERRED TO COUNCIL	
DATE	INITIALS

Dear Mr Hooper

EMERGENCY SERVICES REVIEW – OPTION TO TRANSFER LOCAL BUSH FIRE BRIGADES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As previously noted in our letter dated 19 December 2012, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is currently conducting a review of the Emergency Services Legislation. As part of this process, the Legislation Review Project Team is developing a Concept Paper that will facilitate consideration of key issues raised through ongoing consultations and previous reviews.

During the consultation process a key issue that has been identified is the administration and operation of bush fire brigades. More specifically, a number of submissions and discussions made reference to recommendations 55, 56 and 58 of the 2006 Community Development and Justice Standing Committee (CDJSC) – *Inquiry into Fire and Emergency Services Legislation*. These recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 55

- The emergency services legislation is to provide for FESA (now DFES) and local government to enter into an agreement for the purpose of local government transferring the following responsibilities to FESA on a permanent basis:
 - Emergency incident control;
 - Bushfire Brigade operations and administration;
 - The determination and administration of ESL (Emergency Services Levy), in relation to the capital and recurring costs associated with Bushfire Brigades.

Recommendation 56

- Such an agreement is only to be entered into if both FESA and the local government agree to terms and conditions.

Recommendation 58

- Any additional costs of transfer of Bushfire Brigades from local government to FESA, apart from those normally funded under the Emergency Services Levy, are to be borne by the State.

In 2008, the Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit (RGU) was established by the State Government to give due consideration to business and the community in designing regulatory proposals and to provide an early warning to the Government of any unintentional consequences of its proposed regulatory instruments. Under the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Guidelines issued by the RGU, viable options considered should detail the costs and benefits of the option, using quantitative information where possible. The RIA Guidelines also outline that feedback on the impact of the various options should be requested from affected parties.

In order to adequately assess the economic impact to the State, it is important for the Project Team to better understand the quantity and physical location of the brigades that may be transferred under the above recommendations. Consistent with the deliberative process required by the RGU, the Project Team is asking each local government to indicate whether they would be likely to retain or transfer the operations and administration of their bush fire brigades.

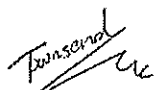
As recommended in the CDJSC review, we are seeking your response to the following question:

If future legislation provided the option for local governments to transfer the responsibility for bush fire brigade operations and administration to DFES, would your local government be likely to retain or transfer the responsibility?

The position provided with respect to the above question is indicative only and does not obligate the local government in any way. The Project Team is aware that the control and administration of local brigades is an important consideration for many communities and appropriate consultation should take place within those communities before a formal decision is made. As we are requesting this information in-confidence, and as part of a deliberative process, individual responses to this request will not be disclosed. However, the aggregate of the data collected will be used to calculate the potential impact to the State and will be presented in the Consultation RIA.

Please provide your response by 10 June 2013. For your convenience, you are welcome to respond by letter, email at legislation@dfes.wa.gov.au or by phone on (08) 9395 9763. If you require any further clarification, please feel free to contact Jeff Warren or myself on the number above.

Yours sincerely



**Lauren Townsend
PROJECT MANAGER**

23 May 2013