



ANNOUNCEMENT

Resignation of Chief Officer Dermot Barry

To all Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades (TVFBA) member brigades:

The sudden resignation today of well-respected Chief Officer Dermot Barry, has left a significant void on the pathway towards emergency service legislation reform, namely the creation of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES), under a statutory Head of Agency, being the TFES Commissioner.

Along with partner representative bodies, the TVFBA lobbied long and hard for this preferred option, most recently with Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Management, Felix Ellis MP.

On the Ministerial announcement earlier this year of the creation of TFES under the new legislative act, the TVFBA whole heartedly supported Chief Officer Barry as the inaugural TFES Commissioner.

Following today's announcement and considering the lack of TFES detail in Tuesday's budget papers, the TVFBA has received information from the Minister this afternoon that the original intent of TFES will be implemented alongside meaningful, and representative legislative reform.

The TVFBA remains committed to the following actions which have previously been announced by Government:

- The position of the new Commissioner of Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services (TFES) will be equal to the Commissioner of Police/DPFEM Secretary and have improved required statutory powers.
- The Commissioner will report directly to the Minister of the day and oversee the new Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service. The Executive Director of SES will remain in the TFES's key leadership group.
- The Commissioner will have complete oversight of TFES's funding arrangements and decision-making processes around operations, finance, corporate services and employment.
- The Commissioner will be Head of the Agency with clear responsibilities and accountability.
- The intent of the TFES announcement in January is not watered down, and is reflective of the requirements and wishes of the current TFS and SES population.

The TVFBA sends a heartfelt note of appreciation to Dermot for his advocacy and vision for the Tasmania Fire Service, and the State Emergency Service, wish him and Terri all the very best for their next chapter.

Should you have any questions, please contact the TVFBA via social media PM or on the TVFBA web site.

Tasmania Volunteer Fire Brigades Association