



MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRE SERVICE LEVY COLLECTION SYSTEM REVIEW SUPPORTED

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest gained the support of the Government yesterday to a motion that will initiate a review of the current Fire Service Levy collection system and revenue funding model, in collaboration with the State Fire Commission.

The current model results in Local Government acts as a 'collection agency' to collect a State Government tax. With recent increases in property values, the revenue 'gap' that local government has been required to collect from ratepayers as a component of the Local Government rates, this amount has risen by up to 33% for some Local Government areas.

"The Treasurer has committed to undertaking a review of the current collection system and revenue model, with the intention of completing this before the end of the calendar year, engaging all key stakeholders in the process" Ms Forrest stated.

"This is a positive outcome for all Local Government bodies that have had to bear the brunt of disgruntled rate payers who have experienced significant increases in a State Government tax that has been required to be collected by Local Government" Ms Forrest stated.

"The review of the current model will provide the opportunity to investigate a variety of options and models for collection of this levy to ensure that the vital services of the Tasmanian Fire Service continues to be appropriately funded" Ms Forrest said.

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For further information contact Ruth Forrest on 0419 879 524