

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

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Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC
Chair
Legislative Council
Estimates Committee B
Email: julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Armitage,

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2025

Thank you for your letter dated 19 November 2025, requesting additional information following examination of my portfolios by the Legislative Council Select Budget Estimates Committee B.

Please find the requested information below for noting.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Output Group 4 – Emergency Management

4.1 – Fire and Emergency Services

1. Regarding search and rescue operations, are you able to provide the cost of these operations to Tasmania Police (RA)

- During 2024-25 there were a total of 476 Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents across Tasmania that required a response from Tasmania Police.
- Each SAR mission involves the appointment of a Search Coordinator who is responsible for providing advice to the Police Forward Commander and determining the most appropriate asset and resources to respond to the mission.

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- The rescue helicopter service was deployed in 193 of the 476 SAR missions.
- An analysis of costs associated with all SAR missions conducted during 2024-25 has determined a total cost of approximately \$5.22 million.
- This estimate is indicative only. It includes average salary costs for SAR members deployed, actual overtime incurred, and contract costs associated with helicopter deployments (where used). The costs do not include expenses related to the use of vehicles or vessels.
- SAR operations often rely heavily on the support of volunteer-based organisations such as the State Emergency Service, bushwalking clubs, and Surf Life Saving Tasmania. Due to the volunteer nature of these contributions, associated costs are not captured.
- Costs associated with complex, protracted or otherwise significant SAR operations are coded within finance systems for management purposes. This occurred with the high-profile rescue of a Lithuanian kayaker from the Franklin River in November 2024. The total cost to Tasmania Police for this specific SAR operation was approximately \$166,000.

Yours sincerely



Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

27/11/2025