

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy



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Mr Dean Winter MP
By email: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of your constituent regarding the Kingston Fire Brigade urban pumper received in Parliament on 16 June 2026.

A new 2.1 Medium Urban Pumper was delivered to the Kingston Fire Brigade last month. This appliance was a prototype and the first of 15 to be manufactured. It was developed through an 18-month collaborative process involving career firefighters, volunteers, and engineering and fleet specialists.

Following delivery, several issues were identified with the urban pumper, including an incorrectly fitted tyre and the need for a software update. Technicians from R.A. Bell arrived in Tasmania on 1 July 2026 to undertake the necessary rectification works. I am informed that the vehicle is expected to return to service in Kingston this week.

The Kingston Fire Brigade has continued to maintain operational capability through its Heavy Tanker, which provides both structural and vegetation firefighting capacity. Where a frontline appliance is unavailable due to servicing or repair and no spare appliance is available, it is standard practice for TFS to supplement response arrangements through neighbouring brigades. This is a routine and established approach across the organisation and is the primary mechanism used to maintain continuity of emergency response capability.

As is common with the introduction of new prototype equipment, some early challenges have occurred. These lessons are proving valuable and will support a smoother rollout of the remaining appliances scheduled for deployment across the state.

Yours faithfully

Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

C.c. Laura Ross, Clerk of the House of Assembly

7/7/2026