

## **FIRE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2011 SECOND READING SPEECH NOTES**

Mr Speaker,

The *Fire Service Act 1979* is currently silent in relation to Commonwealth land attracting the Fire Service Contribution. The Act exempts certain land but does not mention Commonwealth land as being exempt.

Since 1992 the State Fire Commission and Commonwealth Government have had a formal agreement whereby the Commonwealth pays the Commission for fire protection services based on an estimated insured value of land. For 2009-10 the Commonwealth payment to the Commission was \$163,000. The formal agreement lapsed as at 30 June 2010 and a new agreement is currently being discussed.

The State Fire Commission is committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth is treated equitably and is not subject to double charging as a result of the agreement and also through the collection, by councils, of the Fire Service Contribution.

A change to the Act will result in Councils only collecting the Fire Service Contribution where a fire protection services agreement does not exist between the Commonwealth and Commission. Where an agreement exists Councils would not collect the Fire Service Contribution from the Commonwealth.

The amendment will not raise any additional revenue for the Commission.

I commend the Bill to the House.