

Department of Police and Emergency Management

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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RECEIVED
30 JUN 2015

BY:

24 June 2015

Mr Greg Cooper
Branch Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia
Tasmania Branch
PO Box 20
NORTH HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr Cooper

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2015 outlining matters discussed by your members at the recent round of general meetings of the branch membership and the copy of the motion passed by your members.

I acknowledge your request that *until further discussions have occurred with your organisation all steps towards integration are suspended*, however I am satisfied that the current approach being implemented provides genuine opportunities for employees and other stakeholders to be consulted and provide input on the integration process. I can assure you there has been significant frank and meaningful discussion on the integration process with the employees directly affected and their union. As the decision has already been made that integration will occur, I do not support placing the implementation process on hold. This action will only prolong the uncertainty for the people affected and stall their involvement in the development of the new integrated work processes. Consequently, the process of integrating Corporate Services will proceed with consultation taking place on an ongoing basis.

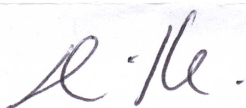
I note in your letter that you look forward to meeting to further discuss the matters outlined in your letter. In order for these meetings to be productive, meetings relating to the State Fire Commission budget, *Fire Service Act 1979*, and State Emergency Service should be arranged with Chief Officer Mike Brown. Meetings relating to the Corporate Services Integration Project should be arranged with Scott Wilson-Haffenden or Todd Crawford. Please contact these officers to make meetings for this purpose.

In response to your further correspondence to the Secretary dated the 25 June 2015, I wish to reiterate that I wish to continue working with you to inform and consult you on the progress of the integration of Corporate Services. I do not share your views that the Tasmania Fire Service is not part of the Department of Police and Emergency Management. I understand at an emotional level, people working in TFS see themselves as part of that entity. The legal reality is, however, that under *State Service Act 2000* TFS

is not an agency. DPEM is the Agency created for the purpose of that Act. TFS forms one part of DPEM and has done for many years. While I have delegated many of the Head of Agency powers under the Act, I still have ultimate responsibility and accountability for the exercise of these powers and the performance of TFS as part of the Tasmanian State Service.

I look forward to you having productive meetings with the Chief Officer or Directors (depending on subject matter) to address the matters indicated in your letter that you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D L Hine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D L Hine
SECRETARY