

Tasmanian Fire Service – Recruitment Freeze

Ms JOHNSTON question to TREASURER

My question is on behalf of a constituent who fears that they may be a non-essential worker. According to the email that they received from the acting secretary of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM), police officers and firefighters are deemed essential workers. The implication being that all other classes of employees within DPFEM are deemed non-essential. This has significant implications for Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) employees, particularly as there are many more non-essential workers currently responding to and managing the multiple out of control bushfires in the west coast than essential workers.

The question they have is, does the hiring freeze apply to the Tasmanian Fire Service at all? How many paid career TFS firefighters - essential workers - are currently working on the bush fire response? How many non-essential government employees who are not firefighters are currently working on the bush fire response? If all the workers deemed non-essential from TFS and from Parks and Wildlife Services walked off the job today, could Tasmania Fire Service resource the management of the fire?