

## ESL review – submission to draft report

*Rotheram, Mr Ian*

I commend the ERA for undertaking a thorough review of the Emergency Services Levy. I agree with the recommendations that have been made.

While I agree with recommendation 13 – that the ESL should be used to fund the administration costs of DFES – I think there should be a limit on the use of ESL funds to cover overheads. I suggest that in coming years, at least 77% of ESL funds are spent directly on prevention, preparedness and response activities. A rigorous and accurate system of activity based costing will be needed to demonstrate that this occurs.

I support the creation of a rural fire service, based largely on using properly trained and equipped volunteer firefighters and funded from the ESL. I understand this will require a modest increase in the ESL across all categories.