

# Emergency Services Levy Review Draft Report

- There needs to be greater transparency across the ESL. The eligible items under the ESL need to be broader to cover what the volunteers actually require on the ground to support safety and welfare. Eg through the current list Local Governments are only able to purchase 2 Fire Weather Metres. This is unrealistic as most Local Governments have 3 to 8 Officers that require this equipment to obtain weather reading at strategic locations across the shire during the summer period. Another example is that other agencies appliances are able to secure through the ESL Engels for their trucks to keep water and food cool. Though the current system bushfire brigades are not eligible to purchase this through the ESL for their appliances.
- Prevention needs to be high on the ESL list. There have been limited work in the mitigation side of reserves and continue funding UCL mitigation in the rural areas. Local Governments have limited funds to support mitigation on lands vested with them and have limited resources to conduct this work. Ideally ESL should cover mitigation works across reserves. A way to implement this would be Local Governments submit an annual works plan to a governing body and the funding allocated would be for individual areas, this would be instead of being allocated a lump sum and trying to allocate works over a whole mitigation program for an area or town site.
- CESM program has been valuable to Local Governments and Bushfire Brigades and needs to be fully funded from the ESL. The program needs to be extended to all parts of the State.
- The CESM program is seen as the ideal support to implement a Rural Fire Service as these Officers are already located in the regions and have the local knowledge and community support. This would be the most cost affect way of implanting a Rural Fire Service.
- ESL expeditor can be reduced by assuring that equipment is fit for purpose. Eg Bushfire appliances are equipped to do the job required in a rural setting. They do not require in many cases all the additional equipment that is included. Again pathway training for volunteer bushfire brigades has become very cumbersome with many fire fighters having years of experience needing to complete a Pathway to support their volunteer role.