



Government of Western Australia
Fire & Emergency Services Authority



480 Hay Street
Perth Western Australia 6000
PO Box 1174 Perth WA 6844
Telephone (08) 9323 9300
Facsimile (08) 9323 9384
Email fesa@fesa.wa.gov.au
www.fesa.wa.gov.au

Our ref : 002595
Your ref :
Telephone : (08) 9323 9461
Facsimile : (08) 9323 9385

Sandra Roussel
Manager
Philanthropy and Exemptions Unit
Personal and Retirement Income Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sandra

**EXPOSURE DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION
EXTENDING GIFT DEDUCTIBILITY TO VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION**

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) has reviewed the Exposure Draft – Extending Gift Deductibility to Volunteer Fire Brigades released for public consultation on 4 May 2010.

FESA welcomes the Commonwealth's current proposal that provides flexibility for FESA associated volunteer entities to choose to 'opt in' a centralised public fund or manage their own public fund. Volunteer emergency service entities value their financial autonomy to manage their own fundraising and financial arrangements outside of the core funding they receive through the Emergency Services Levy or other government funding. FESA also acknowledges this proposal does not impact the Volunteer State Emergency Service Units and Volunteer Marine Rescue Service Groups. It is understood they will still be classified as a Public Benevolent Institution and remain entitled to be endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient in their own right.

FESA's only concern is that the proposed legislation deems FESA as the controlling entity for the volunteer bush fire brigades despite local government having the legislative responsibility for their activities.

The peak Western Australian Emergency Service Volunteer Associations have been consulted on the potential impacts of the proposed legislation on the volunteer entities they represent. The volunteer associations in principle support the flexibility provided to the volunteer entities to choose whether to manage their own public fund or 'opt in' a centralised public fund. Similar concerns were conveyed by the volunteer bush fire brigades association over the proposed legislations intention to have FESA as the controlling entity whilst not having statutory responsibility for the volunteer bush fire brigades.

On that basis FESA requests Treasury to reconsider the proposed legislation and the implications of this matter on the Western Australian volunteer bush fire brigades.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9323 9461 or Frank.Fortuna@fesa.wa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



FRANK FORTUNA
A/DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

25 May 2010