



SES Strategic Disaster Readiness Package

What does this funding package mean for local government?

This State Liberal Government recognises the past and current valuable partnership between local governments and their SES units that ensure their communities have access to and are assisted by, well-resourced and supported volunteer SES units.

This package will ensure these partnerships are both maintained, grown and embedded to provide their local communities the greatest possible benefits in resilience, preparedness and response to storm and flood and tsunami emergencies and importantly a rapid recovery back to normality after the event.

Local government have contributed to this partnership by providing the SES volunteers with suitable buildings and locations for the SES units to operate from, assist in the funding and maintenance of operational vehicles and provide funding towards some of the day to day operational expenses that the SES volunteers incur.

This level of support however varies from and is dependent on available funds and resources. This package has been designed to relieve some of these councils of this financial burden and ensure local SES units have the most appropriate funding, operational vehicles and resources.

This package has not been designed to dilute this valuable partnership between two integral community organisations, but rather consolidate and promote these partnership benefits and allow each local government to either continue its current level of support to their local SES volunteer units, or have the ability to reinvest in other areas of support for their local SES volunteers.

Some of the key benefits that this package will deliver to local government will be;

- *Cash Retention:* They will not be responsible for the procurement, running costs (fuel) and maintenance of the 533 SES operational vehicles
- *Revenue Generation:* Where facilities are available and meet State Fleet vendor registration criteria, local government will be invited to maintain SES operational vehicles and will be paid for these services through State Fleet.

- *Cash Injection:* SES will, at a negotiated rate, buy back from local government current operational vehicles which have been assessed as 'safe to use and fit for purpose'.
- *Enhanced Local Government Asset base:* Those vehicles that are currently being utilised by local SES volunteers and are identified as not suitable as 'fit for purpose' for current and future operational requirements will be vested directly back to the local government to increase or enhance their current council vehicle fleet.
- *Equitable Resourcing:* Equitable emergency service resourcing will be risk based and risk assessed on community needs rather than being dependent on the capacity of each local government area.
- If required by the local council, the local SES units will have funding to assist in the payment of agreed unit building utility costs such as power, water and heating.
- Local government will have the opportunity to redirect funding currently committed to vehicles and the running costs of the local SES unit to upgrading the current building facilities to ensure it meets the needs of the volunteers and subsequently their communities.

As previously indicated this package does not and will not replace this key strategic community partnership between council and SES. It is envisaged and hoped that most if not all local governments will maintain their current level of support to their local community SES volunteers and that this funding injection will enhance the resources and facilities available to our respected and highly valued SES volunteers.



SES Strategic Disaster Readiness Package – UNIT FUNDING

Q&A reference sheet

Can local government still contribute to the support of their local SES units and volunteers when the package is introduced?

Yes. The SES recognises the valuable partnership between Local Government and their local SES units and the contributions and assistance local government provide to their volunteers. The SES welcomes local government's ongoing support and assistance with general unit running costs.

What will this package mean for future relationships between local government, their volunteers and SES units?

This package has been designed to consolidate and promote this valuable partnership between two integral community organisations, and allows for each local government to continue its current level of support to their local SES volunteer units.

Does this mean Local Governments no longer have to pay the 11.7% contribution to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL)?

No. Local Government will still be required to maintain the 11.7% ESL contribution as is currently in place.

What does the Local Government need to contribute apart from the Emergency Service Levy (ESL)? Do they still need to provide facilities for the running of SES units?

In accordance with the State Emergency Service Act 1989, Sect 17 (5) &(6), local government are required to provide suitable training facilities storage and office accommodation and be of a standard approved by the Commissioner.

How will the SES and council determine what bills the SES requires to pay in relation to the running costs of the unit?

The SES will draft and negotiate a Service Level Agreement that identifies what costs each organisation will maintain and contribute. SES representatives will shortly meet with each Mayor and General Manager to negotiate these arrangements.

When will the funding package commence?

While the funding package will become available at the beginning of the 2012/13 FY, the unit funding project will be developed over the next 12 months and so there may be some lead time before the benefits materialise.



SES Strategic Disaster Readiness Package- FLEET

Q&A reference sheet

Can local government still contribute to the support of their local SES units and volunteers when the package is introduced?

Yes. The SES recognises the valuable partnership between Local Government and their local SES units and the contributions and assistance local government provide to their volunteers. The SES welcomes local government's ongoing support and assistance, whether through donating the existing vehicles to the Service's fleet or assisting with general unit running costs.

What will this package mean for future relationships between local government, their volunteers and SES units?

This package has been designed to consolidate and promote this valuable partnership between two integral community organisations, and allows for each local government to continue its current level of support to their local SES volunteer units.

Does this mean Local Governments no longer have to pay the 11.7% contribution to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL)?

No. Local Government will still be required to maintain the 11.7% ESL contribution as is currently in place.

What does the Local Government need to contribute apart from the Emergency Service Levy (ESL)? Do they still need to provide facilities for the running of SES units?

In accordance with the State Emergency Service Act 1989, Sect 17 (5) &(6), local government are required to provide suitable training facilities storage and office accommodation and be of a standard approved by the Commissioner.

Can Local Governments still procure vehicles for their local SES units if they wish to?

No. The SES recognises the valuable partnership between Local Government and their local SES units and the contributions and assistance local government provide to their volunteers. The SES welcomes local government ongoing support and assistance, whether through donating existing fleet or funding the procurement of vehicles to be given to the SES fleet program or assisting with general unit running costs.

How will the SES and council determine what bills the SES is required to pay in relation to the running costs of the unit?

The SES will draft and negotiate a Service Level Agreement that identifies what costs each organisation will maintain and contribute. SES representatives will shortly meet with each Mayor and General Manager to negotiate these arrangements.

Will this package dilute the current relationships local government have with their volunteers and SES units?

This package has not been designed to dilute this valuable partnership between two integral community organisations, but rather consolidate and promote these partnership benefits and allow each local government to continue its current level of support to their local SES volunteer units.

When will the funding package commence?

The Fleet Funding Package will commence the beginning of 2012/13 and the procurement and replacement of all current operational vehicles will be rolled out over a 5 year program, based on operational and safety risks and needs.

How will the local government determine what vehicles the SES wish to procure from the existing fleet stock and what vehicles will be returned to council?

The SES Fleet Management Unit have identified which vehicles they wish to absorb into its fleet from local government and which vehicles will be handed back to council as they have been classified as not operationally fit for purpose. The SES and its representatives will discuss with each council the project and vehicle analysis.

How will the SES determine the value of vehicles they wish to procure from Local government?

Many of the vehicles in the current fleet have been purchased by a dual contribution between local government and the SES. This and a consideration of market value rates, age, usage and vehicle type will be taken into account when making these calculations.

How much will the councils be paid to assist in the maintenance of the operational vehicles?

Where facilities are available and meet State Fleet vendor registration criteria, local government will be invited to maintain SES operational vehicles and will be paid for these services through State Fleet at current vehicle maintenance rates.

Is it compulsory for councils to assist in the maintenance of the operational vehicles?

No. Where facilities are available and meet State Fleet vendor registration criteria, local government will be invited to maintain SES operational vehicles. If councils do not wish to take up this option, SES will access alternative vehicle maintenance arrangements.

How will the SES communicate where within the 5 year vehicle program a particular council will be impacted?

Each council will be provided with an annual forward project estimate of vehicle procurement and or disposal to enable them to program this into their asset management planning.