

# State Fire Commission Annual Report 2009/10





## Statement of Compliance

**Honourable L Thorp MLC**

Minister for Police and Emergency Management

Dear Minister

In accordance with Section 107(g) of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the Report of the State Fire Commission for the year ending 30 June 2010.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

M W Brown AFSM BSocSc MIFireE EFO

**CHIEF OFFICER**

30 September 2010

P J Kingston BEc(Hons) MAICD

**COMMISSION MEMBER**





Photographer Warren Frey

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## Vision

Ringarooma volunteer firefighters, photo courtesy of the Launceston Examiner

# Our vision is a Tasmanian community safe from the impact of fire and other emergencies

## PROFILE

Tasmanian firefighters have served the Tasmanian community since the early 1800's and have had a legislated responsibility since 1883. The current Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) was established by the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

Today TFS is an innovative and efficient statewide service that takes pride in its long history and strives for continuous improvement. TFS provides its services from 233 brigades throughout Tasmania. These services include rapid and effective response to fires and emergencies including rescue and hazardous materials incidents, as well as fire prevention and fire safety education.

Our 5,343 volunteers and career staff work together as an integrated team committed to achieving our strategic goals for a safe Tasmania.

## OUR ROLE

The role of the State Fire Commission (SFC) is to protect life, property and the environment from the impact of fire and other emergencies.

The Commission delivers all of its services through its operational arm, TFS. We measure our success by:

- Comparing performance with industry benchmarks
- Achieving our periodic goals and objectives
- Maintaining financial strength and viability.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

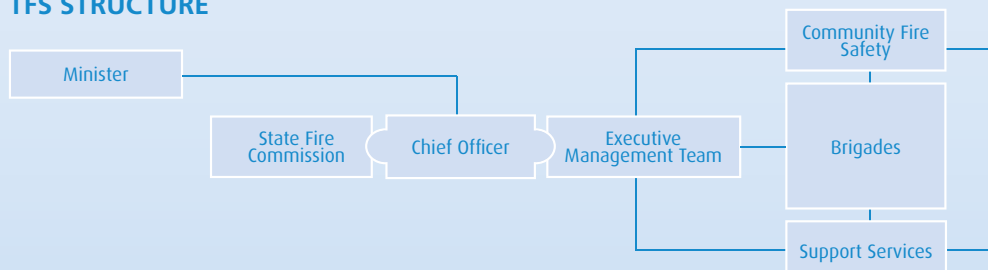
In carrying out this role we will demonstrate a commitment to the following key principles:

- Operate in a consistent and fair manner
- Keep in touch with stakeholder expectations
- Provide development opportunities for all members
- Display strength and unity in membership.

## MAJOR GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>GOAL:</b>    | To assist the Tasmanian community to manage fire risks and respond safely to fire.                              |
| <b>OUTCOME:</b> | Fewer unplanned fires in a community that is prepared to respond appropriately when threatened by fire.         |
| <b>GOAL:</b>    | To respond to and manage fire and other emergencies efficiently and effectively.                                |
| <b>OUTCOME:</b> | Minimal social, economic and environmental cost to the community arising from fire and other emergencies.       |
| <b>GOAL:</b>    | To ensure the organisation operates responsibly with regard to the community, our people and the environment.   |
| <b>OUTCOME:</b> | A capable, resilient and legally compliant organisation.  |
| <b>GOAL:</b>    | To support our people in a safe, fair and productive work environment.  |
| <b>OUTCOME:</b> | A safe, fair and productive work environment.   |
| <b>GOAL:</b>    | To manage our financial, information and physical resources efficiently and effectively.                        |
| <b>OUTCOME:</b> | The provision of adequate and sustainable resources to enable the Commission to discharge its statutory duties. |

## TFS STRUCTURE





## Chairperson's Report 2009/10

This is my first annual report as Chief Officer and I am immensely proud to be part of such a positive and committed organisation. We have faced many challenges over the past year and on behalf of the SFC I thank all members for their support, dedication and the excellent work that has been achieved.

Understandably, a major focus for TFS in 2009/10 has been the research and implementation of changes in the aftermath of the Victorian 'Black Saturday' fires. With the sad loss of 173 lives and more than 2,000 homes, TFS and other Australian fire agencies clearly needed to learn from all aspects of this tragic experience.

Our immediate response, to the Victorian Fires, of committing more than 300 firefighters and 40 plus vehicles is well known and I still hear the praises of my Victorian counterparts and colleagues about the professionalism, understanding, and 'can do' attitude of TFS firefighters. What may be not so well recognised or understood is our continued input into the ongoing research of the fires with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (BCRC), our significant contribution into the development of new national positions with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), and the valued assistance provided by TFS officers at the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC) in assisting AFAC with the preparation of evidence and indeed, for some of us, presenting evidence at the Royal Commission itself.

Specifically, TFS officers provided their expertise on the 'Prepare, Stay and Defend, or Leave Early' position; building and development in bushfire prone areas; and organisational structure, operational arrangements, and our unique interoperability arrangements we have developed and tested over time with Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) and Forestry Tasmania (FT).

In August the VBRC delivered its interim report recommending a range of changes to bushfire danger ratings, warning messages and warning alert systems. AFAC and TFS responded quickly and by late October a

suite of new arrangements were presented using our briefing forums to the wider organisation and our key partner organisations and other stakeholders.

Undoubtedly a similar process of analysis and communication of the critical messages and new initiatives will be instigated once the final report and recommendations of the VBRC are received.

The State Government as part of its response to bushfire preparedness provided the SFC with additional funding of \$1.1 million in 2009/10. The funds included \$0.8 million for equipment and \$0.3 million to fund three community planners who will oversee the development of community protection plans.

Effective communication is vital in a large and geographically dispersed organisation like TFS. Face to face forums like our annual regional or state, conferences continue to be popular and as mentioned above the concept of pre season briefings have been well received.

Our quarterly journal 'Fireground' remains an important quality publication for communication and recognition but this year we also introduced an electronic (email) communiqué 'Word Back' providing a more frequent, very brief and rapid means of communicating out up to the minute information. More than 3,000 TFS members are believed to receive 'Word Back' and more that 30 editions have been prepared over the past year.

Earlier in the financial year John Gledhill retired as Chief Officer after 14 years in that position and I would like to take this opportunity to thank John on behalf of the SFC and members of the TFS for his invaluable contribution.

**Michael Brown** AFSM BSocSc MFireE EFO  
Chief Officer





## State Fire Commission Members

**Back L to R** Bruce Corbett AFSM, Rodney Sweetnam, Lyndsay Suhr AFSM, Paul Kingston, Phil Oakley, Mike Gallagher  
**Front L to R** Gavin Freeman, Michael Brown AFSM, and Carmel Torenus

### Michael Brown AFSM BSocSc MIFireE EFO

Chairperson of the State Fire Commission and TFS Chief Officer. Former Deputy Chief Officer and Regional Officer of TFS with 33 years experience and a member of the State Fire Management Council, Director on the Board of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre

### Rodney Sweetnam

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) representative on the State Fire Commission since November 2009. Mr Sweetnam is currently Director Resident and Leisure Services and Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator with the Launceston City Council. Mr Sweetnam was the LGAT representative on the State Fire Management Council from 2002 until his appointment on the Commission in 2009. He is currently Group Officer of the Quamby Group and has held various officer positions as an active volunteer in brigades in Tasmania and Victoria.

### Bruce Corbett AFSM

Tasmanian Retained Firefighters Association representative on the State Fire Commission since November 2006. Commenced with the Wynyard Brigade in 1977 and has held various positions in that brigade including that of Brigade Chief since 1991.

### Lyndsay Suhr AFSM

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA) representative on the State Fire Commission since July 2007. Commenced with the Glenorchy Central Brigade (now Wellington Brigade) in 1977 and has held various positions including that of Brigade Chief. Mr Suhr is currently a Group Officer of the Derwent Group. Mr Suhr is a life member of the TVFBA and Wellington Brigade. Mr Suhr is also a member of the Hobart Special Fire Area Committee, Member of the Wellington Trust Maintenance Coordinating Committee and Glenorchy Emergency Planning Committee.

### Paul Kingston BEc(Hons) MAICD

Department of Treasury and Finance representative on the State Fire Commission since December 2009. Mr Kingston is currently Director, Procurement and Property Branch and holds a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.

### Carmel Torenus

Local Government Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Commission since November 2009. Mrs Torenus is currently Mayor of Sorell and possibly one of the longest serving female Mayor's in Australia and a Director in a family business employing 15 people. Mrs Torenus is also Chair of many Council Committees and Patron of many community groups.

NOTE: Gavin Freeman, Phil Oakley and Mike Gallagher provide executive support to the State Fire Commission.

## Executive Management Team Members

### Michael Wayne Brown AFSM BSocSc MIFireE EFO

Chief Officer

Director

Chair

Member

Member

Member

Chair

Chair

- NAFC

- State Fire Commission

- State Fire Management Council

- State Emergency Management Committee

- Security Emergency Management Advisory Group

- TFS Executive Management Team

- TFS Learning and Development Policy Group

### Gavin Stuart Freeman MEmergMgt Grad Dip Exec Lship GFireE

Deputy Chief Officer

Member

Chair

Chair

Chair

Chair

Member

Member

- AFAC Urban Operations Strategy Group

- TFS Operational Managers Group

- TFS Volunteer State Consultative Committee

- TFS Operational Learning & Development Strategy Group

- TFS Central OH&S Committee

- State Fire Management Council

- TFS State Consultative Committee

### Michael William Gallagher RFD BBus(Acc) CPA

Director Corporate Services

Member

Chair

Chair

Chair

- AFAC Collaborative Purchasing Group

- AFAC Business Management Group

- Strategic Information Management Committee

- TFS Learning and Development Strategy Group (Divisional)

### Damien John Killalea AFSM BBus GFireE

Director Community Fire Safety

End User Leader

Member

Member

Member

Member

Chair

Member

- BCRC Social Research Program

- AFAC Community Safety Group

- National Bushfire Warnings Taskforce

- Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (Tas) Assessment Panel

- TFS Learning and Development Reference Group (Divisional)

- TFS State Consultative Committee

### Robyn Elizabeth Pearce Grad Cert App Mgt MAHRI

Director Human Services

Member

Chair

Member

Member

- AFAC Volunteer and Employee Management Group

- AFAC Occupational Health and Safety Subgroup

- AFAC Employee Management Subgroup

- TFS State Consultative Committee

### Thomas Anthony (Tony) Davidson AFSM MIFireE

Regional Chief South

Member

Member

Chair

Chair

Member

Member

- Pacific Island Fire Services Association Liaison Officer

- Multi Agency Coordination Group

- Tasmanian Hazardous Material CBRN Advisory Group

- Operational Resources and Service Committee

- Southern Region Emergency Management Committee

- TFS State Consultative Committee

### Andrew Charles Comer AFSM Grad Dip Exec Ldr BBus MIFireE

Regional Chief North

Member

Member

Chair

Member

Member

- AFAC Knowledge Management Group

- Community Protection Planning Steering Committee

- TFS Learning and Development Reference Group (Career)

- Northern Region Emergency Management Committee

- TFS State Consultative Committee

### Daryl (John) Streets AFSM BM

Regional Chief North West

Member

Chair

Chair

Chair

Chair

Member

Member

- AFAC False Alarm Committee

- TFS Alarm Working Group

- TFS Operational Uniform Committee

- TFS Learning & Development Reference Group (Volunteer)

- North West Region Emergency Management Committee

- TFS State Consultative Committee

# Key Performance Indicators

In accordance with our vision and role, our key performance indicators are:

- The rate of fire fatalities and injuries (number of fatalities and injuries/100,000 residents).
- The rate of structural fires (number of structural fires reported to TFS/100,000 structures).
- The value of building stock lost in fires as a proportion of the total building stock.

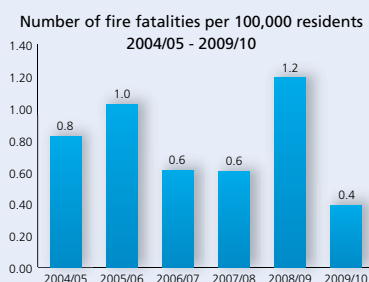
## Fire fatality rate

Sources: Fire fatalities: TFS; Tas population: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

Fire fatalities from accidental causes in Tasmania over the last six years have varied from a high of six in 2008/09 to a low of two in 2009/10.

The chart below shows the fire fatality rate (fire fatalities per 100,000 Tasmanians) for the last six years; a statistic that can be compared with other jurisdictions. The Tasmanian fire fatality rate in 2009/10 was 0.4, compared to the Australian rate of 0.53 (the three year average to 2007; more recent data is unavailable).

Unlike the Australian rate, there is great variability in the Tasmanian rate due to our relatively small population. However, the trend over the period has been downward.



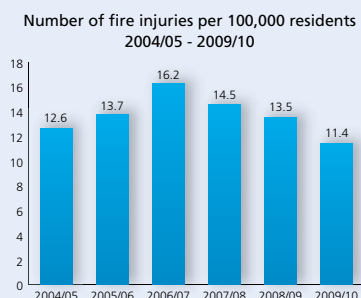
## Fire injury rate

Sources: Fire injuries: Dept of Health & Human Services; Tas population: ABS

Fire injuries in Tasmania over the last six years have varied from a high of 80 in 2006/07 to a low of 58 in 2009/10.

The chart below shows the fire injury rate (fire injuries per 100,000 Tasmanians) for the last six years; a statistic that can be compared with other jurisdictions. The Tasmanian fire injury rate in 2009/10 was 11.43, compared to the Australian rate of 15.9 for 2007/08 (source: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare; more recent data is unavailable).

There is more variability in the Tasmanian rate than in the Australian rate, due to our relatively small population. However, the trend over the period has been downward.



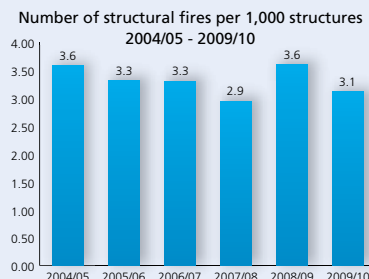
## Structure fire rate

Sources: Structure fires: TFS; Structures: Dept of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment

Structure fires attended by the Tasmania Fire Service over the last six years have varied from a high of 793 in 2008/09 to a low of 639 in 2007/08. In 2009/10, 694 structure fires were attended.

The chart below shows the structure fire rate (structure fires per 1,000 structures) for the last six years.

The trend over the period has been downward.



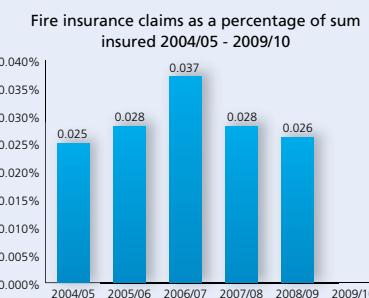
## The value of building stock lost in fires as a proportion of the total building stock

Source: Insurance Statistics Australia Ltd

As an indicator of the value of building stock lost as a proportion of all building stock, the value of fire insurance claims by householders as a proportion of housing stock insured is compared. Data is not available for the 2009/10 period.

Fire insurance claims as a proportion of housing stock insured has varied from a high of 0.0374% in 2006/07 to a low of 0.0248% in 2004/05. In 2008/09, the percentage was 0.0264%.

The trend over the period has been upward.



## Performance Targets

	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
<b>Operational</b>					
Number of preventable house fires per 100,000 households	187	150	163	145	140
Number of false alarms (DBA)	3,444	3,100	3,619	3,000	3,000
Percentage of fires of undetermined cause	23%	20%	21%	19%	18%
Percentage of fires in structures confined to room of origin	74.75%	75%	73.05%	75%	75%
<b>Financial</b>					
Operating surplus after abnormal items	\$2.6M	(\$0.4M)	\$4.4M	\$0.1M	\$0.0M
Return on assets	2.4%	0.0%	4.4%	0.6%	0.4%
Return on equity	3.4%	(0.5%)	5.6%	0.2%	(0.1%)
Debt to equity	6.4%	3.7%	5.6%	6.4%	6.4%
Current ratio	82.5%	63.5%	98.5%	88.0%	90.0%
<b>Human Resources</b>					
Average sick days per employee	5.3	4.6	5.8	4.5	5.0
Workers compensation claims	45	<50	58	<50	<50

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The data used for reporting operational activities was derived from TFS incident reporting system which conforms to AFAC Standard - Australian Incident Reporting System. All TFS brigades contribute data to the reporting system. Incident reports are compiled from observations made at the scene by responding officers and fire investigators. Of the 12,121 incidents attended by TFS, 97.7% had incident reports completed by brigades. All TFS operational graphs and tables are based on completed incident reports.



# A Fire Safe Community

Community Development Fern Tree.  
Photographer Bridget (BJ) Jupe.

## GOAL STATEMENT

To assist the Tasmanian community to manage fire risks and respond safely to fire.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Build community capacity to reduce fire risks and act safely when fire occurs
2. Deliver community safety strategies that are based on research and standards of best practice
3. Engage with and influence government and industry in order to improve workplace fire safety

## General

TFS delivers a broad range of programs to improve the safety of people in the community, with a focus on those most at risk from fire. These programs aim to prevent fires and minimise the impact of any fires that occur. The Community Fire Safety Division focuses on delivering programs that improve fire safety in the home and in places where people reside temporarily, in healthcare facilities and schools, and in workplaces. The Division, in partnership with the State Operations Unit also delivers programs to address bushfire risks.

## OBJECTIVE 1

Build community capacity to reduce fire risks and act safely when fire occurs

## IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN OUR HOMES

There are groups in the community that have a higher risk of experiencing a fire and suffering injury from fire in the home. These include children, elderly people, people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. To minimise the social impact of fire, in 2009/10 the TFS focused its community education strategies on these groups.

## For children

The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program (JFLIP) provides a behaviour change program for young children who engage in unsafe fire-lighting behaviour. During 2009/10 17 cases were registered and followed up. JFLIP practitioners are also trained to participate in diversionary processes for young people who have committed fire-related offences. In 2009/10, practitioners represented the TFS at eight community conferences and formal cautions.

The School Fire Education Program reached 17,149 primary school children in 89 schools in 2009/10. Children learned about fire safety in and around the home, prepared a home evacuation plan and learned what to do if a fire occurs. New School Fire Education resources were introduced into the program at the beginning of the 2010 school year. This was the result of a year-long design and consultation process completed in December 2009, guided by feedback from the four School Fire Education Instructors and teachers. Previous school fire education material used a range of mascots, but our research indicated the most credible and recognisable figures that we could use are firefighters. The new resources include a new set of characters: firefighters Clare and Greg, three primary school-aged children and Spot the dog. 'Firefighter Greg' was named after Firefighter Greg Williams, the School Fire Education Instructor in the North West Region, in recognition of his valuable contribution and years of



service to the TFS, the Community Education Unit and the North West community.

### For elderly people and people with disabilities

Older people living independently in the community (often supported by community and health services) are a growing risk group for home fires and fire-related morbidity and mortality. Tasmania's ageing population, combined with deinstitutionalisation, shorter hospital stays and increased demand for the provision of care to people in their own homes makes this issue of particular importance to TFS.

*Project Wake Up!* aims to improve fire safety for people with disabilities and elderly people living independently in the community. The program offers free home fire safety checks and advice. In the homes of many participants, smoke alarms and batteries are installed free of charge.

204 community organisations working in aged and disability care referred clients to the program in 2009/10. Career and volunteer brigades conducted the home fire safety checks and this year brigades visited 628 households. This brings the total number of households participating in the program since its inception in 1999 to 4,237. During 2009/10, 703 smoke alarms were installed, and 447 batteries were replaced.

During 2009/10, the evaluation of *Project Wake Up!* has continued, with analysis being undertaken to assess the extent to which the current service addresses the needs of the main stakeholders. The analysis also aims to identify and highlight priority problems and current and future needs so that strategies can be developed that address home fire safety for Tasmanians into the future. Strategies this year have included:

- An on-line survey of referral agencies
- Case studies of a diverse mix of volunteer brigades about their experience and views of *Project Wake Up!* and
- A review of existing research and statistics.

Two evolving projects are linked with the review process.

### Smoke alarms for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

On 3 December 2009, the then Minister for Human Services Lin Thorp announced the funding of a subsidy program for specialised smoke alarms for deaf and hard of hearing Tasmanians. The proposal for the subsidy scheme

was developed by the Tasmanian Deaf Society (TasDeaf) in partnership with TFS and the Department of Health and Human Services (Disability and Housing) (DHHS). All three agencies are delighted with the decision, and have moved forward together to implement the program.

Smoke alarms for deaf people comprise a photoelectric smoke detector, a flashing strobe light alarm, and a vibrating alarm to be placed under the pillow. The cost of a smoke alarm for deaf people approximately \$500, compared to the cost of a standard photoelectric smoke detector with auditory alarm of approximately \$20. The cost means that until now, many deaf and hard of hearing people have not been able to afford appropriate smoke alarms.

The initial home fire safety checks and installation of smoke alarms in the homes of those already identified by TasDeaf will take place in early 2010/11. Specialised resources have been developed for deaf and hard of hearing clients, and for TFS staff delivering the program to them. This program will provide equitable access to essential and potentially life-saving equipment for deaf and hard of hearing Tasmanians.

### Hard-wired smoke alarm installation in the North West

In 2009 the TFS Community Education Unit formed a partnership with the Australian Technical College to pilot the installation of hard-wired smoke alarms in the homes of the elderly and people with disabilities in the Burnie and Devonport region. Local firefighters worked with the College to train the College's electrical students to undertake the home fire safety check and install the alarms. A single referral point was established through the DHHS. This project is expected to continue in 2010/11, depending on the College's circumstances.

During 2009/10, TasFire Equipment worked with Housing Tasmania to develop a four year program to upgrade existing smoke alarms in some 2,000 of Housing Tasmania's housing units. At the end of the program, housing units will have photo-electric smoke alarms fitted to each sleeping area, replacing ageing ionisation smoke alarms. 1,000 of these new alarms were fitted during 2009/10 when carrying out the annual battery replacement program.

### Reaching the families of young children

The promotion of home fire safety messages has continued in the winters of 2009 and 2010. Campaign elements include television, radio and print advertisements that target parents of young children. TFS continues to be a member of the Child Injury Prevention Coalition (ChIPC), which brings together a cross-section of stakeholders who contribute to minimising the rate and impact of childhood injury. ChIPC provides a forum for collaboration and advocacy, and TFS has been involved in a range of inter-agency strategies.

Obviously, the responsibility for home fire safety for very young children rests with their parents and other carers, and based on research evidence we do not offer structured educational programs to this age group. As with the School Fire Education program, however, one of the ways that the TFS influences parents and carers of pre-school



# A Fire Safe Community



aged children is through general giveaways that appeal to children. These resources have been redeveloped in 2009/10, based on feedback from volunteer and career firefighters, who are usually the people distributing them in the community. The new resources are:

- Fire truck money box
- '000' sticker
- Smoke alarm sticker and
- Colouring book.

All of the giveaways incorporate the new School Fire Education characters. This is to allow a natural flow and recognition across our range of fire safety resources for children.

## Other home fire safety activities

TasFire Equipment continues to offer smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blankets for sale to the community through outlets in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. An estimated 84% of Tasmanian homes have a working smoke alarm.

TFS and Duracell again teamed up to run a campaign to urge all Tasmanians to *Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery* on Sunday 4 April 2010. This campaign links the practice of changing your clock at the end of daylight savings with replacing the batteries in smoke alarms to help keep them in working order.

Numerous fire safety information sessions were conducted throughout the State by TFS personnel, engaging more than 1,000 community members. Participating community groups included those representing youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. Additional home fire safety information was communicated through brochures distributed widely throughout the community, as well as on the TFS website. TFS also maintains a free-call service for general fire safety enquiries.

Two mobile community education display trailers promoting fire safety were used extensively by fire brigades in their local communities during 2009/10.

## IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN OUR WORKPLACES

### Education

TFS through its Building Safety Unit develops and maintains a range of materials designed to provide information and advice on issues such as maintenance of fire protection equipment, building owners' obligations in regard to fire safety, obtaining a permit to install, maintain or repair fire protection equipment and evacuation planning. This information is available on the TFS website.

### Industry training

To improve safety in workplaces across Tasmania TFS's TasFire Training unit delivers a variety of training that cover all aspects of fire prevention, fire safety and emergency response across a range of environments. Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) related training includes safe working in confined spaces and the use of breathing apparatus. TasFire Training also conducts a specialised fire investigation course which attracts participants from throughout Australasia.

During 2009/10, 657 courses were conducted for 6,699 employees from workplaces across Tasmania. Increasing levels of fire safety awareness and emergency response skills in the workplace means that the households of these employees are also becoming safer.

### Fire equipment installation and maintenance

TFS TasFire Equipment unit employs 23 staff who service fire protection equipment in approximately 7,200 workplaces across Tasmania. These Fire Equipment Officers are trained to inspect, install and maintain a broad range of equipment including fire hoses and reels, fire blankets, fire hydrants, fire extinguishers, fire and smoke doors and smoke alarms, and sell many of these and other items. The unit operates workshops in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie where extinguishers are pressure-tested and recharged, hose is coupled and repaired and other maintenance is performed.

During 2009/10 TasFire Equipment serviced some 13,500 sites across the State including sites on King and Flinders Islands. Demand for TasFire Equipment services is increasing as business owners become more aware of their obligations under the *Building Regulations 2004* to ensure their fire protection equipment is maintained.

TasFire Equipment collaborated with Roaring 40s, the operator of the Woolnorth wind farm, to supply parts for fire suppression systems in generators at the Waterloo wind farm in South Australia, also operated by Roaring 40s. The systems were installed and commissioned by Delta Fire

Australasia, who worked with TasFire Equipment in the design and installation of a prototype.

### IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY FROM BUSHFIRES

The TFS has a statutory responsibility to manage bushfire risks in Tasmania, and has developed and implemented an effective range of strategies for this purpose over many years. A number of measures have been undertaken during 2009/10 to minimise the impact of bushfires on the community:

### Reshaping bushfire safety messages after Black Saturday: 'Prepare. Act. Survive.'

Following the tragedy of the Victorian bushfires in February 2009, the TFS, AFAC and fire services around Australia developed new policies, advice and strategies for community safety in the lead up to the 2009/10 bushfire season. These were based on the recommendations in the Interim Report of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (released 17 August 2009), and on a substantial body of research from the BCRC. On this foundation, the Community Education Unit of TFS developed a new bushfire safety social marketing campaign. Campaign elements included:

- An official launch 9 November 2009
- Four new television advertisements (November 2009 to February 2010, airing approx 1,000 times on WIN, Southern Cross, TDT, ABC)
- A new national fire danger rating scale
  - Now included in weather forecasts in the Mercury, Examiner, Advocate and Tasmanian Country newspapers
  - Print advertisement in the following Tasmanian newspapers:

Mercury	Devonport Times
Examiner	Eastern Shore Sun
Advocate	Glenorchy Gazette
Brighton Community News	Tasmanian Country
East Coast News	The Gazette
Kentish Chronicle	Huon Valley News
Meander Valley News	Circular Head Chronicle
Northern Midlands News	North Eastern Advertiser
Tasman Gazette	Western Herald

- 188,000 copies of an eight-page bushfire safety booklet inserted into the Mercury, Examiner, Advocate, Tasmanian Farmer and Tasmanian Country newspapers (November 2009)
- Facebook advertising (November 2009 to February 2010)
- YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/tasmaniafireservice](http://www.youtube.com/tasmaniafireservice)
- Updated Bushfire: Prepare to Survive DVD (December 2009)

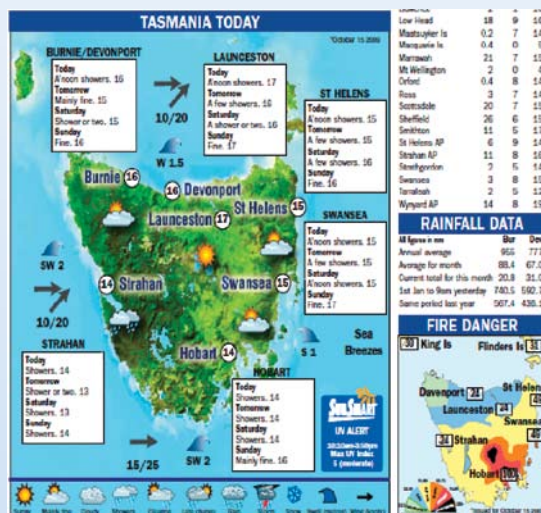
- Updated Bushfire: Prepare to Survive booklet (December 2009)
- Updated TFS website [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)
- Direct mail of information kit to volunteer and career fire brigades to assist in carrying out bushfire safety activities in local communities (December 2009)

### Bushfire ready communities: one size does not fit all

The pilot of a new community development strategy for bushfire safety commenced in March 2009 in four communities in bushfire prone areas, coordinated by a new Community Development Officer and supported by TFS District Officers, volunteer brigades and other staff. The pilot is also supported by Professor Douglas Paton and doctoral student Mai Frandsen from the University of Tasmania, who are conducting an independent evaluation of the pilot as part of the BCRC.

This is a new direction in bushfire safety for TFS, building on the high levels of community awareness created by the three-year *Bushfire: prepare to survive* DVD and social marketing campaign. BCRC and local campaign research has shown that there are still households that are not prepared for bushfire, and that different approaches may be needed to change the behaviour of those who have not responded to information provision strategies. Community development is an approach that has been shown to be successful in changing behaviour, by accessing existing community networks and resources and supporting communities to develop specific local strategies.

Four locations, Snug Tiers, Fern Tree, Huntingdon Tiers and Binalong Bay, were selected to trial the project. These were chosen based on a range of criteria, including identified bushfire risk, demographics, logistics, urban fringe areas, northern and southern rural areas and, most importantly, advice from District Officers.





# A Fire Safe Community

Local brigades were consulted at the beginning of the project to gain an insight into the level of community engagement already in place; their capacity for community liaison and education; awareness of their community's preparedness, capacity and vulnerability; local knowledge of key community leaders and groups; and, to gain their support for the project. All four brigades agreed to support the pilot although their capacity to support a community development approach to bushfire preparedness varied.

Local Government and other major landholders (PWS, FT, Wellington Park Management Trust) were consulted and agreed to support the project. Identified community leaders were also informed of the pilot project and their support sought to help spread the word throughout the community. This met with varying degrees of success depending on the existing community networks.

Public forums were seen as the most expedient way of engaging with property owners, and residents from the target areas received personally addressed invitations through the mail. Public forums in all four areas were supported by the local brigade and District Officer, and feedback was generally very positive. Common issues raised were:

- Warning systems and trigger points for leaving early, including sirens and fire danger rating boards (three out of the four communities have poor mobile phone or ABC radio reception),
- The difference between evacuation centres, community fire refuges and neighbourhood safer places and how these would be determined,
- Responsibility for clearing road verges and the state of roads impacting on evacuation,
- Fuel reduction burns on Crown and local government land,
- Lack of preparation of neighbouring properties and Councils' follow up with abatement notices (particularly where there were absentee landowners),
- Fire behaviour and risk specific to the local area, and
- Specific information on how to prepare and retrofit existing houses.

A community approach to dealing with local risk was promoted at the forums. As a result, communities are seeking more detailed information about their specific risk and ways that they as a community can mitigate the risk. Follow-up strategies have included facilitating street meetings, group property assessments, and providing information and resources to new and existing community groups.

The involvement of key staff has been critical to the success of the program so far. Important contributions were received from Deputy Regional Chief (North) Jeff Harper, District

Officer (Midlands) Gerald Crawford, District Officer (Hobart) Hugh Jones, and District Officer (South West) Rod Sherrin.

They have the practical, local knowledge of bushfire behaviour that people are seeking, and were extremely generous in sharing their time and expertise.

Many other TFS brigades actively engage with their communities - providing information sessions, undertaking property and structural assessments and assisting with community events such as fundraising and Christmas pageants.

Due to increased demand from the community for bushfire protection equipment, TasFire Equipment has significantly increased the range of products it offers for sale. During summer and in particular when bushfires are burning, TasFire Equipment received a significant number of enquiries from the community about how best to protect their property.

## OBJECTIVE 2

**Deliver community safety strategies that are based on research and standards of best practice**

The Community Fire Safety Division periodically analyses fire incident data collected by firefighters to monitor patterns and trends in fires. This analysis enables the Division to develop programs targeted at those most at risk of fire, as described above.

The Division collaborates closely with interstate fire agencies through AFAC and BCRC to identify best-practice programs and initiatives for at-risk groups. This approach is often supported by the development of national positions on best practice, to which TFS and the interstate fire services subscribe.

Key performance indicators for fire safety programs include the fire fatality rate and the house-fire rate:

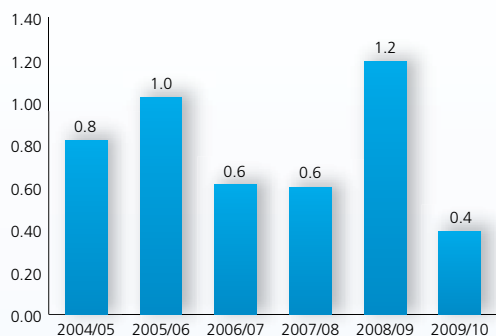
### Fatalities as a result of fire

Fire fatalities from accidental causes (fire-related suicides and homicides are excluded) in Tasmania over the last ten years have varied from a high of twelve in 1998/99 to a low of two in 2001/02, 2006/07 and 2009/10.

The chart on the next page shows the fire fatalities per 100,000 Tasmanians. This provides a statistic that can be compared with other jurisdictions. The Tasmanian fire death rate in 2009/10 was 0.4 people per 100,000 people in the population, comparable to the Australian (rolling 3 year average) rate of 0.53.

In comparison to the Australian rate, there is significant variability in the Tasmanian rate due to our relatively small population.

Number of fire fatalities  
per 100,000 residents 2004/05 - 2009/10

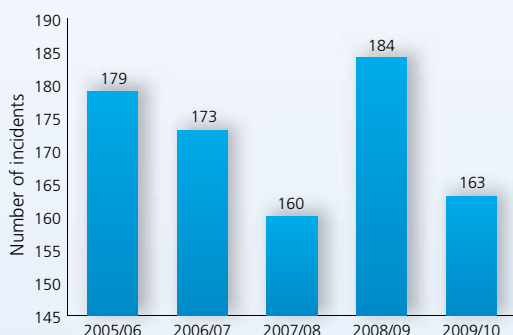


### The house fire rate

The accidental house fire rate (arson-related fires are excluded) in Tasmania has declined steadily for more than a decade, dropping by some 30% in the last ten years.

The chart below shows the rate of accidental house fires attended by TFS brigades per 100,000 households over the last five years, based on ABS Census data for Tasmanian households.

Accidental house fires reported to TFS  
per 100,000 households 2005/06 - 2009/10



## OBJECTIVE 3

Engage with and influence government and industry to improve workplace fire safety

### Maintenance of fire safety features and measures

Fire safety audits continue to be conducted on a wide range of government and commercial buildings in Tasmania to ensure owners and occupiers are routinely having the fire safety features and measures that are provided in their buildings, maintained to a standard equivalent to or greater than those prescribed by manufacturers. These audits have also enabled the TFS to assess the performance of service providers undertaking the maintenance of fire protection equipment.

### Compliance in high life-risk buildings

A major focus over the past year has been to assess the level of fire safety in buildings that house persons with

disabilities. While some of these buildings have been the subject of random audits in the past, more recent work has centred around consistency in evacuation planning and the suitability of fire safety features in those buildings known to the TFS. Work continues to be done to identify other buildings used for this purpose.

TFS staff have been working closely with designers, consultants and builders to ensure fire safety features associated with the latest round of school redevelopments, conducted under the Federal Government's stimulus package, have been properly integrated into existing systems. It was also important to ensure any new fire safety system met TFS operational requirements and that changes due to these building works were accurately reflected in the schools' evacuation plans.

Information about the fire safety obligations of building owners and occupiers arising from the *General Fire Regulations 2000* continues to be distributed through TFS offices, in correspondence and via the TFS website.

## PRIORITIES 2010/11

- Continue to implement and evaluate the 2009/10 to 2011/12 bushfire safety campaign.
- Complete the pilot of a bushfire safety community development strategy.
- Support the development of Community Protection Plans for communities at risk from bushfire.
- Plan, implement and evaluate a new three-year home fire safety campaign.
- Evaluate *Project Wake Up!* and use evidence-based strategies to improve home fire safety for elderly people and people with disabilities.
- Trial inspection and reporting under the *Building Act 2000* on fire safety features and measures in buildings.
- Review the relevance of the *General Fire Regulations 2000*, and propose new regulations to the SFC.
- Implement an electronic business management and contract management system for TasFire Equipment.
- Identify and implement opportunities to maintain TasFire Equipment's market position.
- Identify and implement opportunities to maintain TasFire Training's market position.



# Emergency Response

Structure fire Zeehan.  
Photo courtesy of Victor Kubiak.

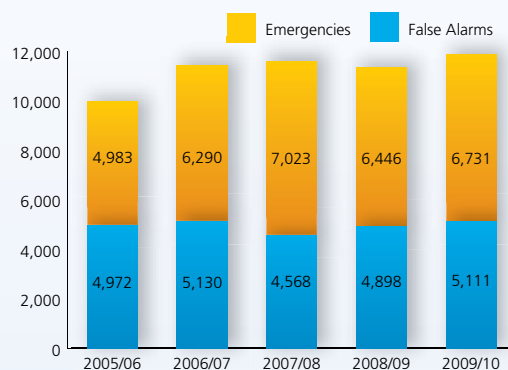
## GOAL STATEMENT

To respond to and manage fire and other emergencies efficiently and effectively.

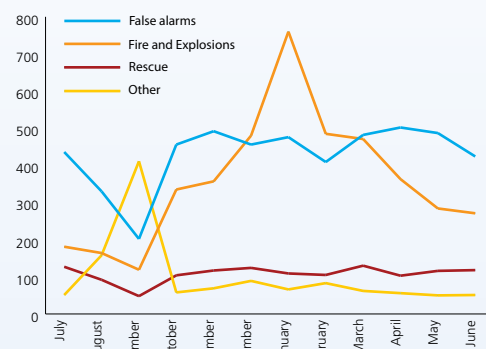
## OBJECTIVES:

1. To maintain the capacity of brigades to safely and effectively understand and manage their emergency risks
2. To provide a timely response to emergencies and appropriate resources
3. To continually seek to improve our emergency response performance
4. To foster the establishment and maintenance of emergency management arrangements between the TFS, other organisations and the community
5. To influence the community to respond safely during emergencies

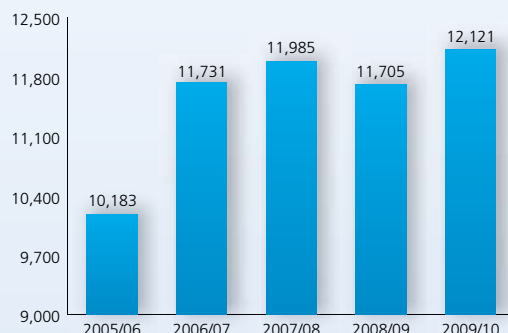
Number of incidents 2005/06 - 2009/10



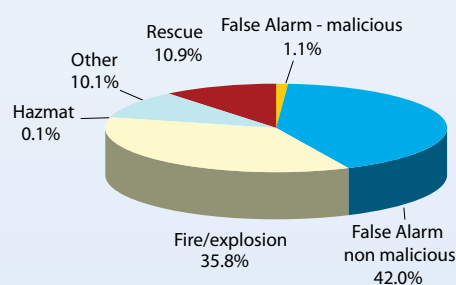
Total incidents by month 2009/10



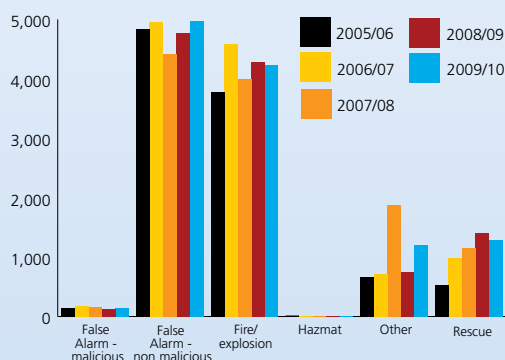
Total incidents attended 2005/06 - 2009/10



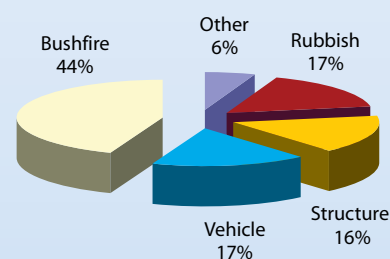
Type of incidents attended 2009/10



Type of incidents attended 2005/06 - 2009/10

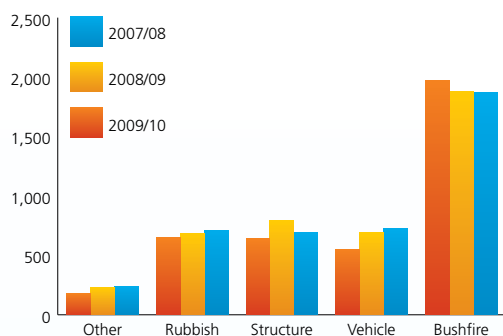


Type of fires attended 2009/10





Type of fires attended 2007/08 - 2009/10



## OBJECTIVE 1

To maintain the capability of brigades to safely and effectively understand and manage their emergency risks

The development and implementation of a pre-incident planning system will enable brigades to capture critical information on risks within their response areas. The system is multi faceted allowing a number of databases to be updated with a single input. Brigades are continuing to undertake pre-incident planning to identify risks within their area and develop operational plans to manage those risks. These plans cover both the built and natural environment and enable the prioritisation of mitigation processes to further reduce risks.

Training needs analysis is being conducted in line with risks identified by brigades to further enhance firefighter and officer skill sets. A renewed focus on officer training, development and leadership is expected to improve the capacity of brigades to manage and develop their members.

## OBJECTIVE 2

To provide a timely response to emergencies with appropriate resources

### RESPONSE TIMES

The continual monitoring of response times and adjustments to response protocols as required, is continuing to ensure the best equipped and most readily available brigade is responded. Career and volunteer brigade mobilisation times are carefully monitored and continue to highlight any changing trends so these can be reported and rectified to improve total response times.

The development and implementation of an automatic vehicle location system will further enhance the ability of FireComm and Incident Management Teams (IMT) to identify the best positioned crews to respond to incidents.

Strategies like 'hot day response' where a minimum of two brigades respond to bushfires during periods of high fire danger, and early deployment of helicopters for reconnaissance and aerial firefighting have been effective

in facilitating fast containment and extinguishment of bushfires in their early stages.

Trigger points for the implementation of total fire bans (TFB) and permit restrictions have enabled TFS to best position itself in preparation for, or in response to, days of high fire danger.

The establishment of predetermined Strike Teams and IMTs that are available to be rapidly mobilised at short notice on days of higher fire danger has had a positive impact on the effective early response and improved incident management at critical times.

The fire appliance build program continues to assist in improving the number and quality of 'fit for purpose' fire appliances across the state. These fire appliances are strategically placed and matched to manage the risks within a brigade area, thereby improving the reliability and effectiveness of response.

### FIRECOMM

FireComm, operating under the State Operations Unit, is a centralised call receipt, dispatch and communications centre for the TFS. The dedicated staff coordinate the response to the many emergency incidents that the TFS attends. In addition to this FireComm receives emergency calls, and records incident information until the incident concludes. FireComm also receives and records all bushfires on land managed by FT and PWS as well as managing the dispatch of State Emergency Service (SES) units to Road Accident Rescue (RAR) and Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA). FireComm also plays an integral role in hazardous materials response by obtaining information from chemical information databases required by emergency crews.

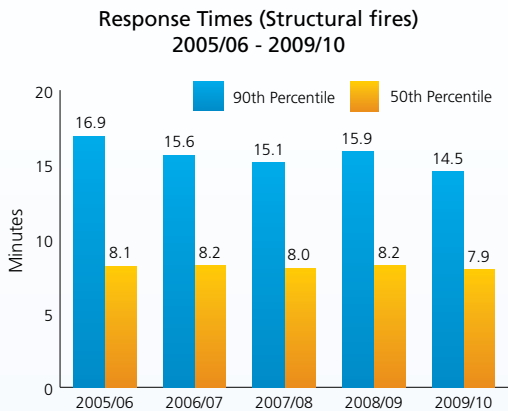
As a result of the recent review into FireComm operations, the TFS has appointed a project manager to oversee the implementation of a number of recommendations stemming from the review. This will result in more efficient and effective work practices that will further streamline incident call handling and dispatch of resources. In addition to this, the TFS continues to look at new and innovative technologies that will enhance its computer aided dispatch arrangements.

A total of 12,226 emergency incidents were handled by FireComm in the 2009/10 reporting period. These consisted of 12,121 incidents where TFS resources were deployed, with 90 bushfire incidents where the sole respondent was either FT or PWS. FireComm also handled 15 incidents where SES was the sole respondent.

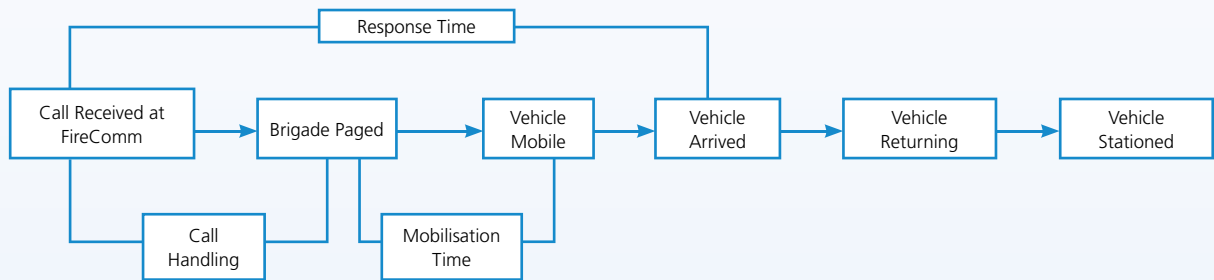
2009/10 saw the median response decrease representing a significant improvement in response times to structural incidents.

TFS is actively involved in the provision and review of aerial firefighting through its involvement in the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC). For 2009/10 the State Government supported the provision of an additional medium helicopter, co-funded under the NAFC arrangements. This helicopter was based in the Northern Region for the fire season.

# Emergency Response



*Note: Indicated response times are inclusive of all call handling, brigade mobilisation and vehicle travel times to all structure fires statewide.*



## OBJECTIVE 3

**To continually seek to improve our emergency response performance**

The TFS has continued to review brigade response areas to ensure the most appropriate brigades respond to emergencies. In addition to this, fire appliances are strategically placed and matched according to the risks the brigade is exposed to. This improves the efficiency and effectiveness of response to all types of incidents. The fire appliance build program has continued the rollout of new appliances to many brigades around the state. This program has enabled older appliances in the fleet to be replaced with 'fit for purpose vehicles' designed specifically for the risk exposure of the brigade.

The TFS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team undertook extensive competency maintenance in the early part of 2010. The focus of these 2 day block-release training sessions was to introduce a wide range of new and specialised rescue equipment, purchased through the Commonwealth's \$1.5M USAR Capability Development Project.

The project also allowed for the purchase of specially designed equipment PODS (Portable On-Demand System). These were manufactured locally in Tasmania and will be



York Town bushfire. Photo courtesy of the Launceston Examiner

located in the North and South of the State. The PODS provide a modular and cost-effective way of not only storing but transporting this specialised equipment anywhere in Tasmania to resource a structural collapse rescue incident.

The TFS vertical rescue capability has been further enhanced in terms of both equipment and training. A variety of new rescue hardware has been procured in the 2009/10 financial year. This combined with three firefighters attending an advanced training course in Adelaide in May ensures the TFS is continuing to build its capacity to respond to these types of emergencies.

Planning commenced this year for the facilitation of a statewide hazardous materials technician's course which will be held late 2010. This is the result of a number of operational staff attending a forum with other emergency service providers, and will further enhance the TFS ability to deal with hazardous materials incidents statewide.

December 2009 saw the last of the heavy rescue appliances come on line for the south of the State. This finalised the rollout across the State of four of this type of vehicle that will strengthen the TFS capacity to deal with a number of technical rescue incidents.

TFS continues to implement a number of recommendations from both the Myer coronial inquest and more recently, the

final findings of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission. It is likely that a number of these recommendations will have an impact on the way the Service operates into the future.

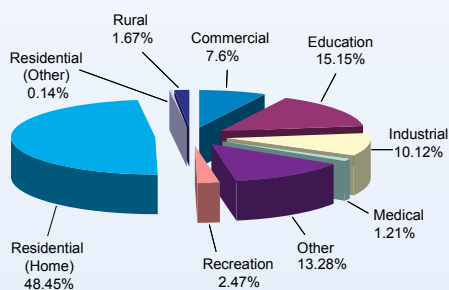
### PROPERTY FIRES

The total number of structure fires over the last financial year dropped by 11% from 794 in 2008/09 to 694 in 2009/10. Of these, the number of residential fires decreased from 488 in 2008/09 to 448 in 2009/10. The total value of property loss from fire in 2009/10 was approximately \$48.9 million, a significant increase from last year. This can be partially attributed to large structure fires at Burnie High School and the Nyrstar smelter at Risdon. The 2007/08 year figure was significantly influenced by the Myer Store and Bridgewater High School fires.

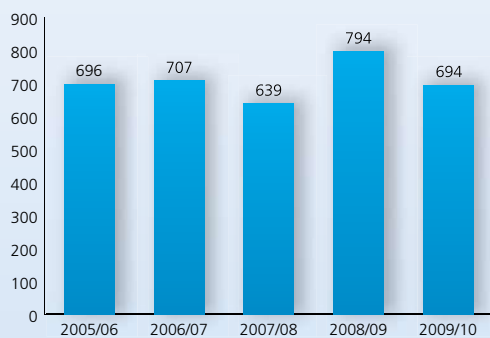
The figure of \$48.9 million is still higher than the average over the last few years, discounting the dollar lost of Myer Store and Bridgewater High School in 2007/08. 2009/10 saw a decrease in residential structure fires and a slight increase in dollar loss value from the same period last year. This can be apportioned to the more accurate dollar loss values being placed against structure fires across the board.

*Note 1: The structure property loss due to bushfires is not captured through the current data analysis process.*

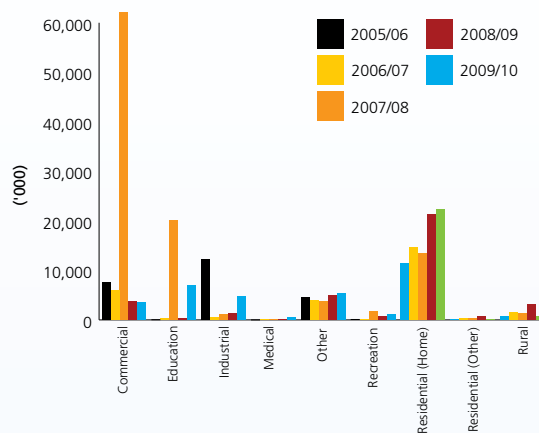
Dollar loss by property type 2009/10



Total structure fires 2005/06 - 2009/10



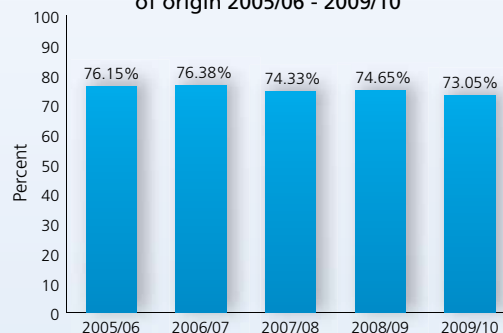
Dollar loss by property type 2005/06 - 2009/10



### EXTENT OF DAMAGE

Confining a fire in a building to the room of its origin is a primary objective for responding brigades. The proportion of all structure fires that are confined to the room of origin provides a measure of brigade effectiveness. Fire spread before brigade intervention is influenced by many factors including burning time before detection and response/travel time to the fire. Early detection by smoke alarms greatly assists in rapid brigade intervention as well as their primary role of providing early warning to residents. This percentage has remained relatively static over the last few years. The

Structure fires confined to the room of origin 2005/06 - 2009/10



Photographer Shane Andrews.





# Emergency Response

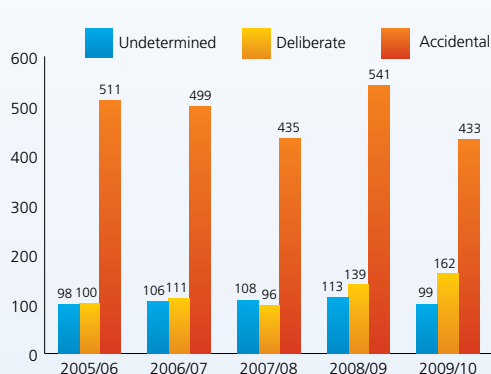
impact on fire spread of modern furnishings and materials used in houses has contributed to the difficulty in improving brigade performance in this area.

## FIRE CAUSE

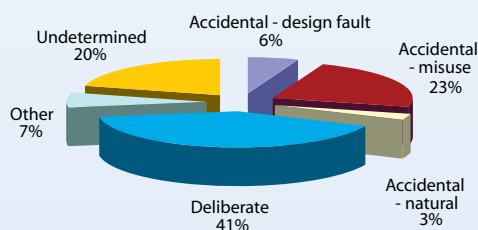
TFS has the responsibility for determining the cause of every fire. Where possible a cause is established by the attending brigade. Where this cannot be achieved the incident is passed to one of the two TFS full-time Fire Investigation Officers. When the fire cause is determined to be deliberate, Tasmania Police (TasPol) are notified to investigate the incident further. In such cases there is close collaboration between TFS and TasPol.

Overall the percentage of fires where the cause has been determined as deliberate or remains undetermined has been relatively stable over the last eight years. The percentages

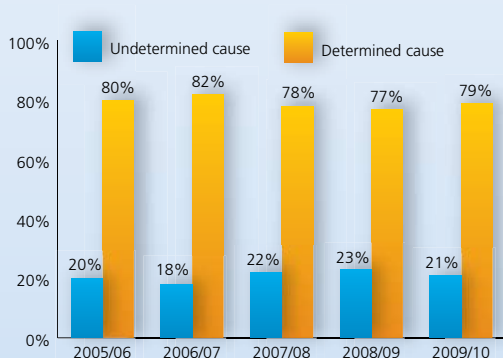
Cause of structural fires 2005/06 - 2009/10



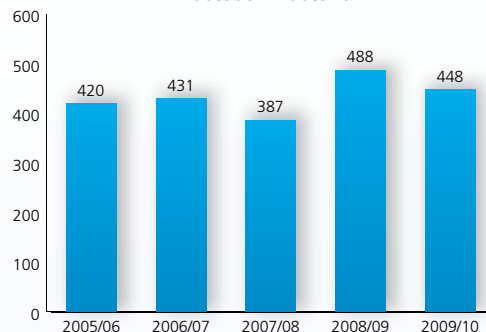
Cause of fires attended 2009/10



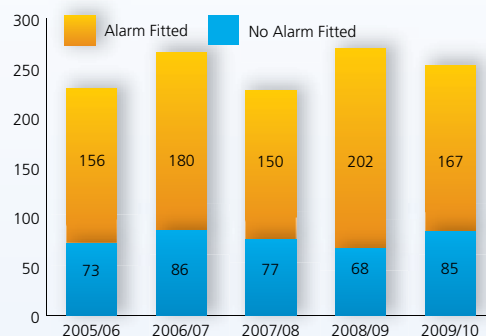
Cause of all fires 2005/06 - 2009/10



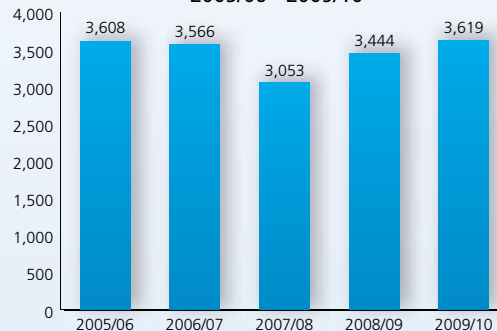
Residential accidental structure fires  
2005/06 - 2009/10



Domestic property fires - smoke alarm installed  
2005/06 - 2009/10



False alarms (direct brigade alarms)  
2005/06 - 2009/10

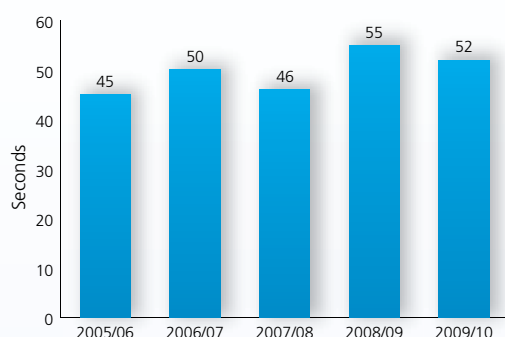


Note: The false alarm figures for the reporting period (2007/08) have not been adjusted to capture false alarms not reported during a period of industrial action.

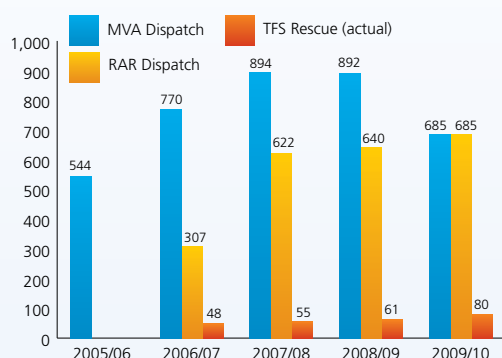
have been 80% +/- 3% for cause determined with 20% +/- 3% undetermined. Although the percentage of deliberate fires is slightly up on recent years. TFS continues to work closely with TasPol on a number of strategies to reduce the incidence of deliberate fires.

The false alarms working group' established by the TFS is developing strategies to reduce false alarms in buildings with direct brigade alarms. Those buildings with high false alarm rates are being targeted, so the TFS and building owners/occupiers can work together to eliminate or reduce the false alarm. The above graph represents a stabilisation given the number of alarms connected recently.

Median call handling times 2005/06 - 2009/10



TFS MVA & RAR dispatches and actual rescues 2005/06 - 2009/10



\* Note TFS response for RAR commenced 1 December 2006.

The gap between the number of reported RARs and RARs requiring actual rescue (extrication) is currently disproportionately large. TFS, TasPol and Ambulance Tasmania (AT) are working together on improving call taking and information transfer to reduce this gap.

## OBJECTIVE 4

To foster the establishment and maintenance of emergency management arrangements between the TFS, other organisations and the community.

The TFS has continued its close working relationship with FT and PWS and in late 2009 reviewed the interagency protocol for the three agencies working cooperatively together during bushfires. Together with collaborative training arrangements, this further enhances the three agencies capabilities when dealing with emergencies.

The TFS continues to work very closely with TasPol in providing training to police officers, at all levels, on bushfire awareness. This fosters interoperability between the two organisations during bushfire emergencies and provides consistent and accurate advice and direction to the community.

A number of cooperative bushfire operations involving TFS with support from private timber/forest companies during recent fire seasons have led to the development of improved and formalised cooperative arrangements between private timber/forest companies and TFS.

The number of RAR incidents that the TFS attends has continued to increase. Collaborative arrangements between SES, TasPol and AT ensures these emergency incidents are managed in an effective and efficient manner.

## BUSHFIRE SEASON

### The Lead – Up

The Victorian bushfire disaster ensured that there was heightened bushfire awareness this season, as well as heightened public scrutiny of all aspects of bushfire mitigation and operations. The new and untried fire danger ratings and warning systems provided additional complexity for both our people on the fireground as well as for the fire managers behind the scenes.

In terms of seasonal rainfall, last winter saw the breaking of the drought and significant recharge of soil moisture. The overall accumulated soil moisture deficits from years of below average rainfalls were not replaced but there was sufficient rain to generate significant pasture growth. This growth had the potential to carry fires between heavier fuels resulting in significant landscape scale fires.

### A Quiet Spring

Calls to bushfires were below average through winter and into spring. At the end of spring a series of warm windy days were accompanied by increasing fires. There were significant fires at Strickland (630ha) and on the Raglan Range.

A fire at Dolphin Sands on 20 November 2009 took only a couple of hours to destroy three dwellings and damage a dozen other properties: a typical wind driven event in a very dry coastal (sandy) situation, which reinforced the need for the presence of defensible space and the presence of well prepared residents.

The end of November saw significant rainfalls in the eastern half of the state which dampened down the escalating situation during early December.

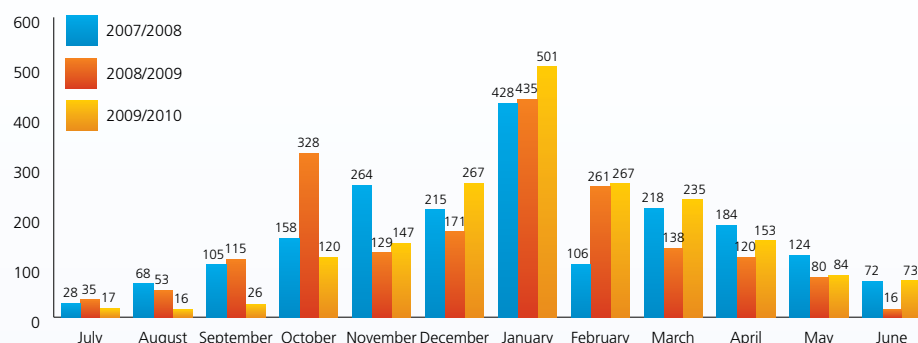
### A Busy Summer

The **major fires** for the season included a very protracted campaign fire near York Town first reported on 2 January, which was very difficult to contain and eventually reached the outskirts of Beaconsfield. Tremendous efforts were required to hold this fire to around 3,000ha.

A roadside ignition on the Plenty Road, Glenora on January 11 required significant resources ahead of worsening

# Emergency Response

Bushfires per month 2007/08 - 2009/10



weather before it was held within suitable boundaries and away from built assets.

A fire which started near Wayatinah on 31 January was driven down the Derwent Valley, through forest and open grassland, threatening Ouse and nearby settlements. This fire required significant resources to firstly apply control lines and then to extinguish it. Although the burnt area was only around 6,500ha there was a very long and complex perimeter. This fire did cause some damage to forest assets, however the firefighting strategies employed prevented millions of dollars damage to important commercial forest and communities. This fire was jointly managed and continued to be a threat through February and March.

There was also a large fire on the West Coast at Lake Mackintosh managed by the PWS. This came from a lightning strike in mixed scrub and buttongrass moorland in mid-January and then required monitoring all Summer. When the main run of this fire occurred it sent smoke over many communities on the North West Coast and in the Great Western Tiers, causing significant concern. At approximately 3,500ha it was the second largest fire of the season.

At the end of January a fire started at Marcus River Road near Montagu threatening a range of plantation, forest and farming operations. This was a difficult fire which eventually burnt 2,200ha.

New Years Eve 2009 presented very warm conditions and very high to extreme fire weather, including lightning storms, with the potential to result in multiple ignitions. A TFB day was declared which had the potential to throw hundreds of new years eve fireworks celebrations in to turmoil. Based on the predicted change in weather later in the evening TFS were able to lift the TFB at 2100 hours, not the usual midnight time. This commonsense approach meant that fires were kept to a minimum during the worst fire weather and the community were impacted on in a minimal way.

## Overall

The season started very quietly but ended up with close to the normal number of calls. Despite the potential, only a few fires grew to significant size. In the Southern Region there were six TFB during the season. This is twice the annual average for the last thirty years. The Northern Region had two TFB, which is average and the North West Region had one TFB, which was also average. The recommencement of the drought in the south was a concern for Summer and Autumn.

The majority of fires were contained quickly and caused limited damage. This is a great result due to the cooperation of the community in preventing and reporting fires as well as the significant use of aircraft to support the fantastic efforts of the crews in attacking small fires early and keeping them small.

Major emergency incidents attended by the TFS occurred at:

1. Dolphin Sands Road Fire - 20/11/2009. Total dollar loss: \$2 million dollars. Multiple structural and mobile property loss. Cause-Accidental.
2. Oast House fire - 2925 Lyell Highway, Rosegarland - 18/5/2010. Total dollar loss: \$2.25 million dollars. Large historic building converted from a working "Oast" house to accommodation. Over 80 years old and one of the largest timber structures in Tasmania. Cause-Deliberate.
3. "Nyrstar" the old EZ Pasminco complex located in Risdon Road - 20/5/2010. A large employer and producer of zinc. A fire in an electrical sub-station with significant firefighting hazards and required the use of the new "foam pod" effecting over-all production of zinc long term. Initial estimates of equipment damage \$6 million dollars. Cause-Accidental.
4. Burnie High School structure fire, Fidler Street, Cooe - 15/12/2009. Total dollar loss: \$5.6 million dollars. Several class rooms and infrastructure were impacted by fire, a significant police and fire investigation was undertaken. Cause-Deliberate.



The continuing trend of less fire permits being issued is in part due to the relatively short fire permit period, 23 December 2009 to 9 April 2010. Also the effect of the

environmental laws on burning of vegetation on parcels of land less than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>.

## Number of fire permits issued

REGION	NUMBER OF FIRE PERMITS					
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
North West	990	454	704	512	336	512
Northern	1,211	415	700	580	329	332
Southern	1,464	558	1,139	721	694	603
<b>Total for state</b>	<b>3,665</b>	<b>3,665</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>1,447</b>

### OBJECTIVE 5

To influence the community to respond safely during emergencies

TFS has played an important role in the development of national strategies to improve operational response and management of emergencies.

TFS staff are involved with the BCRC in areas of research into bushfires, public education, public warnings (including the prepare, stay or leave early message), building in bushfire prone areas and human behaviour in fire.

A new community preparedness initiative is being implemented to support the development of Community Protection Plans throughout the State. The objective will be the development of protection plans to mitigate the impact of fire and other related hazards on Tasmanian communities, with an initial focus on bushfire. The main aim is to achieve community resilience through ownership of their risk and active involvement in risk treatment strategy development and implementation.

TFS is an active partner in AFAC, participating in national committees and working groups covering all aspects of Fire and Emergency Services work. The TFS also have a number of staff who represent AFAC in other national fire related forums such as Standards Australia.

The TFS has spent considerable time training operational staff in the role of the Information Officer for IMT. These officers play an integral role within the IMT and are responsible for the collection and dissemination of critical information required by the community to make informed decisions during bushfire emergencies.

### PRIORITIES 2010/11

- Analyse and prioritise recommendations of reviews into FireComm, Emergency Response, Lessons Learnt, the Myer Coronial and Victorian fires and develop appropriate implementation strategies.
- Develop a plan to implement the profiling of community risk.
- Ensure the knowledge and skills of brigades and members are aligned with their respective community risk.
- Develop and continually review a resource distribution model based on community risk.
- Enhance fire fighter safety and operational decision making through the provision of spatial information (GIS/AVL) and incident data.
- Continually review brigade assignment areas, mobilisation, and response times in consultation with stakeholders.
- Develop communication strategies that inform and influence the community to act appropriately during emergencies.
- Identify and action strategies to reduce unwanted alarms and unnecessary false calls.
- Review, enhance and expand multi-agency emergency response and management arrangements.
- Foster cooperative arrangements between TFS and other agencies to ensure the effective management of all emergency incidents under a common incident management system.
- Review and further develop task force planning and deployment arrangements.



# Our Organisation

Northern Region administration team.

## GOAL STATEMENT

To ensure the organisation operates responsibly with regard to the community, our people and the environment.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To meet the corporate governance responsibilities of organisation management (including requirements of other legislation) to ensure that all compliance obligations are being met
2. To develop formal planning and reporting processes that aligns business unit outcomes with corporate objectives
3. To develop and test plans and protocols to effectively manage major organisational disruptions
4. To manage our business in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner

### Objective 1

To meet the corporate governance responsibilities of organisation management (including requirements of other legislation) to ensure that all compliance obligations are being met

SFC and TFS continued to meet its corporate governance and organisational management requirements in 2009/10.

As part of the financial reporting requirements SFC financial statements were audited by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu with the State Auditor-General overseeing and signing off on the 2008/09 financial statement on 21 September 2009. In the Auditor-General's opinion the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects and were in accordance with the *Fire Service Act 1979* and Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).

The SFC's budget for 2010/11 and estimates of actual likely expenditure and revenue were presented to Parliament as part of the Treasurer's papers and officers of the TFS attended Parliamentary Estimates Committee meetings held in June 2010.

Work also commenced on reviewing all legislation to ensure compliance and this work will continue in 2010/11.

### Objective 2

To develop formal planning and reporting processes that aligns business unit outcomes with corporate objectives

Significant work and progress was made in 2009/10 on the development of Divisional and Regional Plans as well as Unit Plans.

A number of facilitated sessions were held with the Executive Management Team (EMT) before a two day workshop was held with middle Managers and District Officers to develop Divisional and Regional Plans.

As at 30 June 2010 Divisional and Regional Plans were in the process of being finalised and Unit Planning had commenced.

### Objective 3

**To develop and test plans and protocols to effectively manage major organisational disruptions**

TFS continued to develop its Information Technology (IT) FireComm business continuity plan in 2009/10. A site at Cambridge Training Complex has been selected and building drawings were in the process of being finalised. Some equipment was purchased prior to year end with other equipment and the construction of the building being funded in 2010/11. The site at Cambridge will provide redundancy for communication and IT services as well as our dispatch area FireComm. The building will enable three operators to work continuously and also provide a facility for use by IMT's through the bushfire season.

TFS has a large number of computer servers that are regularly backed up and each has its own redundancy plan. Many servers are located in geographically diverse locations and fail testing is conducted in a formal and structured manner. TFS has two server farms also located in geographically diverse locations and plans are well advanced for a third. These server farms are built for fault tolerance and have many levels of redundancy. On this redundant hardware is a virtualisation platform that allows the servers to run independently of the hardware. This allows TFS to maintain high availability of these servers even in the event of hardware failure, as the servers are migrated to other hardware. This also allows TFS to schedule maintenance to this hardware with no interruption of services. Virtual servers are moved between physical servers regularly. This is done automatically to balance load on the physical servers and at least monthly manually. The server build documentation is complete for all our operational and web servers and has been tested. This documentation is reviewed every six months.

### Objective 4

**To manage our business in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner**

One major objective of the TFS is to be respected as an environmentally responsible organisation which is proactive in its approach to reducing its energy and material use. During May more than 30 TFS members attended an Environmental Directions Forum at Youngtown. Four groups were established and these groups each considered the following topics: *How can we reduce our resource use? How can we best manage our waste? How can we save energy? How can we get everyone on board?*

The short term goals identified included monitoring and tracking our water and fuel and energy consumption, reporting faults immediately, recycling wherever possible, reviewing procurement arrangements and contracts and encouraging members of TFS to actively support the program. Longer term goals included the development of smart reporting systems, reviewing building design to minimise energy consumption, procurement of energy efficient equipment, maximising recycling facilities and reviewing the power consumption of all equipment on a regular basis.

### PRIORITIES 2010/11

- Continue to develop and exercise business continuity plans.
- Develop and implement unit plans.
- Develop and implement an environmental policy and implementation plan.
- Analyse and prioritise our corporate governance responsibilities.
- Promote a culture of environmental responsibility at an individual, unit and organisational level.





# Our People

Photo courtesy of The Mercury.

## GOAL STATEMENT

To support our people in a safe, fair and productive work environment.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To attract and retain the right people
2. To shape our workforce and performance
3. To lead and manage for the future
4. To develop and recognise our people's capability
5. To create and maintain an environment where members are well informed, valued and feel they belong

## OBJECTIVE 1

To attract and retain the right people

### RECRUITING AND RETAINING OUR PEOPLE

#### Volunteer Recruitment

TFS workforce planning faces two significant challenges. A potentially drier natural environment may lead to more frequent and more intense fires. At the same time, Tasmania's ageing population and shifting population may limit TFS' ability to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers in some areas of the State. As a result, TFS needs to be able to recruit more volunteers should the need arise at a time when the available 'pool' of people may be shrinking.

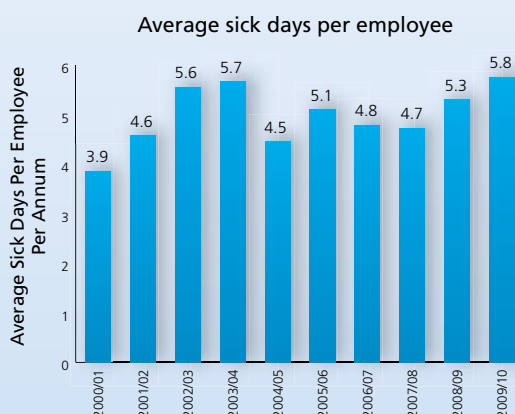
To meet these challenges, TFS has continued implementing its strategic approaches to improving recruitment and retention of volunteers.

As a part of its response, TFS has continued to roll out its Junior and Cadet Toolkit, as well as the Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit.

TFS has developed and adopted a Volunteer Leadership Development Framework. This framework was built on the findings of research on TFS volunteers by the La Trobe University as part of the BCRC. The research identified that positive brigade climate and effective brigade leadership were two of the key determinants for successful recruitment and retention.

Implementation of the Framework will contribute to improved recruitment and retention outcomes.

TFS also developed a workshop program to support volunteer brigades to reflect on and improve brigade climate. All volunteer brigades will take part in the Supportive Brigades workshops over the next two years. To date,



74 brigades have completed the workshop. The deployment of the workshop facilitators' guide and first phase of delivery to brigades were funded by the Commonwealth Government's National Emergency Volunteers Support Fund.

### Career Firefighter Recruitment

Due to a number of retirements and resignations from the career firefighter ranks, the decision was made in March 2009 to recruit new Trainee Firefighters. Vacancies were advertised with over 470 applications being received. Based on a review of the last recruitment process, further changes were made to the recruitment system to streamline and improve the lengthy process. These changes included further variations to the physical abilities assessment based on research conducted by University of Tasmania. Twelve Trainee Firefighters were selected, who commenced training in September 2009, and graduated in December. They filled vacancies in all Regions in the State.

## OBJECTIVE 2

To shape our workforce and performance

### WORKPLACE FEEDBACK AND RECOGNITION

The Workplace Feedback System aims to encourage open and skilful communication about issues and performance, and to enable planned development for all career members.

TFS has been developing its workplace feedback system for a number of years. The system was implemented across all career brigades and divisions. Training has been completed and all work groups have commenced using the system. A reporting and accountability system has been developed and implemented to track the use of the system.

The Workplace Feedback System is the first of its kind in Australasian fire agencies. A number of fire agencies from Australia and New Zealand have sought information from TFS about this innovative system.

A new Performance Improvement process has been developed and implemented during the year, with training provided to all managers. The aim of the process is to provide a system for managing ongoing poor performance that assists the employee to achieve the expected standard with appropriate support from the employee's manager.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

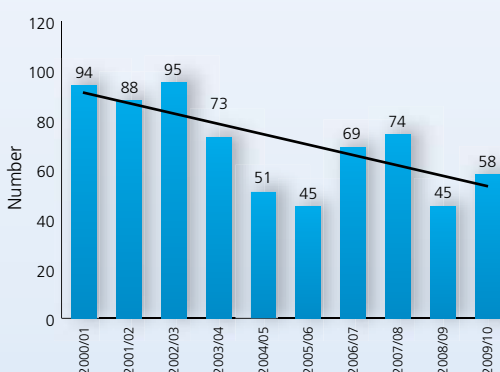
Our safety systems have recently been measured against *Australian Standard AS4801-2001: Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (AS4801)* through an external audit. The results identified that the majority of our systems met the accreditation criteria however a number of weaknesses were identified. The audit results have assisted us with prioritising future projects on a risk management basis. Some of the outcomes are as follows:

- Commencement of a project to develop a Wellness Program designed to assist members with information or supportive programs on a range of issues including mental health and physical activity options, as well as nutrition counselling and weight control programs.
- As an extension to the Wellness Program, Safety Week was again made available to members in 2009. The focus was on the direct benefits to be received through partaking in a low impact walk and eating healthily.
- Further development of the OH&S database has enabled the program to be ready to go 'live' across all major centres towards the end of the 2010 calendar year.
- Regional OH&S Committees consisting of elected Employee Safety Representatives from career and volunteer firefighters as well as divisional members have been formed. They have improved communication and safety practices across the organisation.
- Annual plans and quarterly reporting by all regions and divisions has been implemented. This has assisted with planning for emerging occupational issues as well as enabling accountability through regular reporting on system failures and injury statistics.

### Workers Compensation

In 2009/10, 58 TFS members were injured and needed some form of medical attention. This figure is consistent with the average number of claims received each year for the past six years. However over a longer time period of ten years, there has been a significant downward trend. Fortunately the number of serious or long term claims was low as the majority of claims were of a minor nature.

Workers compensation claims - as at end of June 2010



The overall Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate has gradually climbed with the new lost time injuries now averaging around 28 injuries per million hours worked.

# Our People

## MANAGING DIVERSITY

Most TFS career members have now participated in Diversity Awareness training. A new pool of Contact Officers for behavioural issues was launched in each Region with events, support documents and publicity materials. The Contact Officers have been provided with ongoing support.

A review of the TFS Resolution Procedure was undertaken to simplify the process, and facilitate understanding and use. The revised procedure has been communicated to all members together with training being provided to managers to enable them to assist members with resolving workplace issues.

During 2009/10, no claims for harassment or discrimination were lodged with the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. In addition, no complaints were made to the Office of the Ombudsman.

## COMPETITIONS

### TFS Firefighter Championships

The new venue at Inveresk Park was an outstanding success. Feedback to date is in favour of maintaining this venue for the future. The central location for the State, the close proximity to the city centre and the fantastic facilities made it a dream venue, particularly from an organising perspective. The Launceston City Council was very supportive of the Championships and the TFS generally, and facilitated the installation of the water main and a range of other logistical issues.

The 2009 Junior Champions were Gretna Brigade closely followed by Kingston Brigade. This result could have gone either way with very few points separating the teams at the end. Our juniors and cadets gave their all and it is a shame that they can't all be declared winners ... in any case they are all "champions" in our view!

The Senior State Champions were Kingston Brigade, beating Latrobe Brigade by a narrow margin. Kingston also won the coveted Senior and Junior combined aggregate.

## OBJECTIVE 3

To lead and manage for the future.

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP RESEARCH

A significant indicator of a volunteer's intention to stay or leave is their perception of the quality of brigade leadership. In response to this, TFS commissioned La Trobe University, as part of the BCRC, to research TFS' volunteers' experiences and expectations of leadership. This research included a survey of all volunteers, focus groups with volunteers and brigade chiefs, as well as interviews with senior officers and staff.

La Trobe University has completed a report for each phase of the research together with a final report summarising all findings. These have provided detailed insights into our volunteers' experiences in TFS, the leadership attributes they would like to see enhanced, and their preferences for how this might be achieved. Additional focus groups with volunteers by IMC-Link have corroborated some of the findings of this research.

The results from this research have helped to drive the design and implementation of our Volunteer Leadership Development Framework.

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK

In consultation with volunteers, associations and career staff, TFS completed the design of a Volunteer Leadership Development Framework. This framework describes the principles that will underpin TFS' approach to leadership development. It also outlines the strategies that will be applied and details a range of options that may be introduced over time.

The design of the framework was strongly influenced by input from focus groups with volunteers and the outcomes of the research carried out by La Trobe University through the BCRC.

It is intended that specific aspects of the framework will be implemented over time. A number of tools have already



Australian Fire Fighting Championships, New Zealand, Latrobe Team.



been developed. One tool is a Brigade Leadership Self Rating Tool. This will enable our leaders to reflect on their performance and how they might build on their strengths. It was distributed to volunteer brigades in November 2009. Another tool is the Annual Brigade Leadership Survey which will enable TFS to measure its progress towards its targets.

TFS has also made significant progress in the development of four workshops as part of the Leading Brigades series. These four workshops will be delivered on-station and involve all members of each brigade. They will support each brigade to identify ways of working that will help to enhance brigade leadership and functioning, as well as to prevent or respond to potential conflict.

These workshops and supporting materials have been developed with \$20,000 donated by Fonterra Australia in acknowledgement of the contribution by emergency service volunteers to keeping their communities safe from fire.

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Career members attended a variety of short leadership courses and conferences, while both career and volunteer members attained nationally accredited leadership competencies.

An increased number of TFS career and volunteer members participated in leadership programs developed by AFAC in partnership with the Australian Institute of Police Management. Six members attended the Volunteer Leaders Program. Career members attended a variety of short leadership courses and conferences, while both career and volunteer members attained nationally accredited leadership competencies.

#### OBJECTIVE 4

To develop and recognise our people's capability

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A new volunteer training model was implemented this year which was designed in response to feedback from stakeholders. The new model, based on functional skill sets underpinned by national units of competency, has a focus on flexibility and getting volunteers 'truck ready' sooner, increased practical training, and a clearly defined learning pathway. The implementation of the new model has resulted in the development of new training exercises, and learning and assessment resources.

A new initiative has been the development and delivery of a Bushfire Entrapment training package to brigades during the year. The package is designed to enable delivery by brigades to their members and incorporates a range of resources

such as a DVD to enable ongoing refresher training.

A Recruit Course was held at the end of 2009 with 12 career operational members successfully completing the program. The program was reviewed following feedback from the last course and, as a result, the program was extended from 12 to 14 weeks together with changes to the way in which the program was delivered. Trainee Firefighters completed the program with all the requirements to be able to respond to fires as part of a crew. In recognition of their learning, they achieved and were presented with the Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting and Emergency Operations).

#### Interagency Training

Joint interagency training continued over the past year with a focus on Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) Incident Control Systems functional roles. This training improves joint operational response and improves TFS working relationship with other agencies.

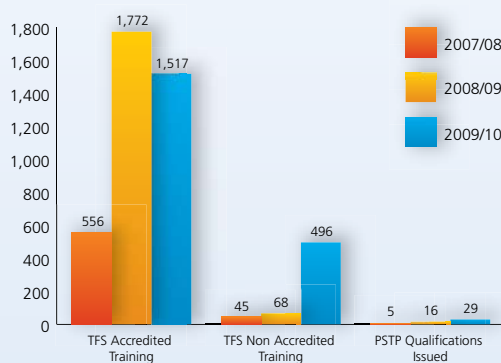
#### Divisional Career Learning and Development

The transition to Microsoft Office 2007 occurred smoothly with The Training Consortium coordinating face to face computer skills training for around 150 members while other members completed Microsoft online training.

#### STATISTICS

##### Career Operational Learning and Development

Operational career L&D activity 2007/08 - 2009/10

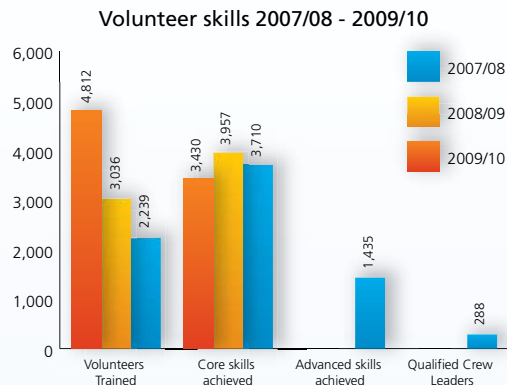


There was an increase in non accredited training this year as a response to the Myer fire coronial inquiry including thermal imaging, sprinkler installation and operation, and technical rescue.

The number of public safety training package qualifications issued by TFS increased this year due to system improvements in identifying career firefighters who met the requirements.

# Our People

## Volunteer Operational Learning and Development



The skills level of 'Firefighter Level 1' enables volunteers to attend incidents under general supervision and is not comparable to data from previous years due to changed requirements. The two elective streams of bush and urban firefighting provide advanced and specialist skills training for volunteers and underpinning skills and knowledge to progress to the crew leader/officer qualification. As they are new qualifications previous year's data is not applicable.

The number of volunteers who attended training courses is down this year due to a greater degree of 'recognition' of prior learning and current skills where new members joining brigades are not required to undertake training for knowledge and skills they have already gained through employment or life skills outside TFS.

## OBJECTIVE 5

To create and maintain an environment where members are well informed, valued and feel they belong

## TFS VALUES

A review of the TFS values commenced in 2010. An initial set of values was developed by the EMT in 2002, however they were not fully implemented across TFS. The review started with all members being invited to participate in online surveys allowing them to choose three values that they believed were important in TFS. The EMT has reviewed the results from the surveys, and will develop a new set of values that reflect the views of our members.

Once finalised, the new values will be implemented across TFS through workplace discussions, and embedded in TFS policies, systems and training.

## TFS REGIONAL CONFERENCES

This year, Regional Conferences were held in each of the three regional centres. The conference themes were: Fire Away, and Live & Learn.

Hundreds of volunteer and career firefighters gathered to listen to presentations on a variety of subjects and to also farewell Chief Officer John Gledhill in his last official functions.

Experiences from events surrounding the Victorian fires on Black Saturday featured prominently with Acting Operations Manager Rohan Luke speaking from a Country Fire Authority perspective. During his closing remarks he acknowledged and thanked all those Tasmanian firefighters who were able to give up their time and offer assistance.

Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea spoke on the proposed community education strategies for bushfire safety in the lead-up to this year's bushfire season. This was followed by informative discussions on triage and urban interface firefighting.

Engineering Services Manager Leon Smith and his crew put on impressive displays with Triabunna Brigade's new road accident rescue vehicle along with a static display of the new concept medium tanker.

John McCormack from TasPol highlighted the importance of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) following traumatic events. Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk had people out of their seats conveying the learnings from the volunteer leadership research.



Leading brigades workshop. Photographer Lucas van Rijswijk.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES

District Conferences are held prior to the commencement of the bushfire season to assist members to prepare for the bushfire season. New strategies for managing community preparation, incident management and workplace safety are communicated through around 30 conferences across the State.

## Australian Fire Service Medal

Australian Fire Service Medal recipients were invested with their awards by the Governor in April 2010.

The Governor, the Honourable Peter Underwood presented that Australian Fire Service Medal to Graham Bennell, Brigade Chief Forth; John Tyrrell, Firefighter and Permit Officer Cambridge Brigade and Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade; and Andrew Comer, Regional Chief North.

Graham Bennell has 36 years' service with Forth Brigade, including 25 years as Brigade Chief. TFS has several Bennell family members: Graham's wife Wendy who is a member at Forth; Stuart who is a career firefighter with Devonport, and Second Officer of Forth; and younger son Matthew who is Brigade Chief at Falmouth.

John Tyrrell has over 36 years' service with TFS. He joined in 1974 as a junior working alongside his father at Mt Rumney Brigade. The brigade amalgamated with Cambridge where he has continued as a volunteer holding various officer positions including Brigade Chief. John became a career firefighter with Hobart Brigade in 1996.

Andrew Comer has 30 years' service with TFS working in Operations, Community Fire Safety, Learning & Development, and district and regional management. He achieved a Bachelor of Business Studies and membership qualifications in the Institution of Fire Engineers. For a number of years he held the position of Australian President of the Institution. Andrew was promoted to Regional Chief North in 2006.



Chief Officer Mike Brown, Leading Firefighter John Tyrrell, Brigade Chief Graham Bennell and Regional Chief Andrew Comer

## AWARDS AND MEDALS

### National Medals

The National Medal recognises diligent long service for members who protect life and property.

### National Medals

- were awarded for 15 years service - 132 recipients

### 1st Clasp

- awarded for additional 10 years service - 63 recipients

### 2nd Clasp

- awarded for further 10 years service - 37 recipients

### 3rd Clasp

- awarded for a further 10 years service – 5 recipients

## PRIORITIES 2010/11

- Finalise the implementation of Supportive Brigade Practices learning within volunteer brigades.
- Finalise the implementation of TFS Values.
- Develop and implement a leadership strategy for all members.
- Ensure that the systems, processes, skill development and support are provided to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of all members with a focus on safe driving, and health and wellbeing systems.
- Complete the review and updating of the Volunteer Handbook.
- Review the career member recruitment processes to support recruitment, selection and promotion.
- Develop and implement learning and development strategies including quality management systems, improving supervisory qualifications, and the development of learning and assessment resources.





## Our Resources

Fabrication. Photographer Warren Frey.

### GOAL STATEMENT

To manage our financial, information and physical resources efficiently and effectively.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide effective management of critical assets that meets the needs of the organisation
2. Provide adequate funding to ensure the SFC is able to achieve its corporate objectives
3. Develop a comprehensive resource allocation model to assist business units to achieve organisational outcomes
4. Identify and pursue all funding options for projects and programs that would assist the SFC to achieve its objectives

### OBJECTIVE 1

Provide effective management of critical assets that meets the needs of the organisation

The communications networks comprise of over 6,000 items of serviceable equipment and this year Communications Services staff completed over 434 site visits to brigades, radio sites and regional offices for inspection and maintenance visits. The Communications workshop in Hobart processed 913 items sent in for service. Planned upgrades were completed at several radio sites including battery systems and transmitter replacements. Fifteen brigade stations benefited from communications systems upgrades including the installation of new brigade radios and the provisioning of new security systems.

The operational server rationalisation and upgrade program, responsible for upgrading server infrastructure, operating systems and database management systems was finalised this financial year. Included in the upgrade was the computer aided dispatch system (FIRM) which underwent a major upgrade this financial year. FIRM had not been changed for many years and the recruiting of skilled staff allowed the program changes to be successfully completed using only in-house resources for the first time. These changes improved support for the new direct brigade alarm system, fix numerous bugs and improved FIRM's usability in FireComm. A major system upgrade to TFS Online planned for this financial year commenced in June 2009 and is due to be completed in October 2010. Unfortunately the upgrade was delayed by a number of significant changes which were required to the existing website. The first major change was the introduction of the community warnings; these were implemented to be consistent with the recommendations from the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission. The second major change was to allow the website to cope with the unprecedented increase in the demand on the website. The upgrade will replace the underlying infrastructure and is expected to be able to support demand for the next three years.

The TFS vehicle fleet comprises some 470 operational fire appliances, all of which were serviced by Engineering Services in line with manufacturer's requirements. In addition to the scheduled servicing, high use appliances are proactively inspected on a monthly basis to ensure operational readiness and reduced necessity for extended periods off line for reactive repair and maintenance. The ongoing design and fabrication of 'fit for purpose' appliances, matched to the expectations, roles and functionality of end users continued to ensure efficient management of fleet resources in line with service delivery.

## OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide adequate funding to ensure the SFC is able to achieve its corporate objectives**

One of the major objectives of the Commission is to ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay its staff and creditors and to maintain its capital works program. The financial plan for the Commission for 2009/10 included a five per cent increase in the Fire Service Contribution. The increase along with other changes to the financial plan allowed the Commission to cover major pay increases awarded to its firefighters and non operational staff as well as ensuring that adequate funding was provided to achieve its corporate objectives.

Funding of the Commission is covered under Our Resources – Financial Overview.

## OBJECTIVE 3

**Develop a comprehensive resource allocation model to assist business units to achieve organisational outcomes**

The current resource allocation model was upgraded in 2009/10 and used to develop the SFC Financial Plan for 2010/11 to 2012/13. The result achieved enabled a number of highly regarded operational priorities to be ranked against major capital priorities with very good outcomes being achieved. Further refinement of the model will enable it to be used effectively at a business unit level.

Each year the SFC allocates its capital budget on a priority basis. With some 233 brigades and 5,343 members a set of criteria has been developed to support consistent and rational decisions relating to the siting and building of fire stations and the allocation of fire appliances and equipment. A five tier risk based brigade classification ranging from remote rural volunteer brigades to city brigades staffed by career firefighters has been developed. A brigade's category assists in determining its fire station type and configuration and its allocation of fire appliances. The siting of fire stations is crucial and consideration is given to a number of factors including the incident data history, the risk profile of the brigade, response times, callout patterns, population distribution and demographics as well as its staffing status (career or volunteer). After taking these factors into consideration the SFC then prioritises and allocates funds accordingly. The provision of fire stations with appropriate facilities both for the brigade members and for garaging fire appliances has been a high priority for many years. This priority has nearly been satisfied although there is likely to always be a need to progressively upgrade or replace fire stations over time. This easing in requirement for building funds has enabled an increased proportion of capital expenditure to the replacement of fire appliances.

The SFC is committed to providing its firefighters with safe and operationally effective fire appliances. Through economies of scale it has been possible to build a significant number of fire appliances in the SFC's fabrication workshop over the past five years and through the prudent allocation of multifunctional appliances into appropriate brigades within the State. Assisted by mass production the SFC has been able to develop a rolling and sustainable fire appliance replacement program that will ultimately result in a decline in the maximum age of its appliances from 25 to below 20 years, (the average number of appliances fabricated to date is 29 per year). The rolling five year fire appliance replacement program has identified the need to replace 86 appliances in the five year period. New appliances are allocated to high use brigades on a priority basis, matched to risk. Older still serviceable appliances that are replaced are upgraded and reallocated to lower use brigades. The commissioning of one new fire appliance has a flow on effect, with the potential to increase the resourcing and capability of several brigades. This process ensures that brigades are provided with the most suitable fire appliance(s) having regard to their need and the level and type of risk in their area.

## OBJECTIVE 4

**Identify and pursue all funding options for projects and programs that would assist the SFC to achieve its objectives**

The SFC where possible seeks to identify funding options for project and program that assist the SFC achieve its objectives. Over the years Commonwealth, State and Local Government and other authorities and private enterprise have assisted the funding of various projects and programs.

In 2009/10 the Commonwealth provided reimbursement of \$614,000 through NAFC to assist Tasmania to obtain two medium helicopters for a significant part of the bushfire season. Emergency Management Australia provided a grant of \$28,000 to assist in the delivery of a Volunteer Recruitment Program. An amount of \$50,000 was also received from the National Emergency Volunteers Support Fund to assist with the funding of a Supportive Brigade Practices Program a pilot program conducted for volunteer brigades.

The State Government committed additional funding in 2009/10 of \$2.39 million over three years to assist the SFC with a number of operational and capital projects. For 2009/10 additional recurrent funding of \$263,000 was provided along with capital funding of \$790,000. Additional recurrent funding for the three years of \$1.6 million provides for three community planning officers and education and awareness materials. The capital allocation of \$790,000 for 2009/10 provided for automatic vehicle location devices for fire appliances, fire retardant blankets and personal headlamps for all fire appliance crews and chainsaw operators safety pants.

# Our Resources

The State Government also provided additional funding of \$2.486 million to assist the SFC to cover wildfire fighting costs in 2009/10.

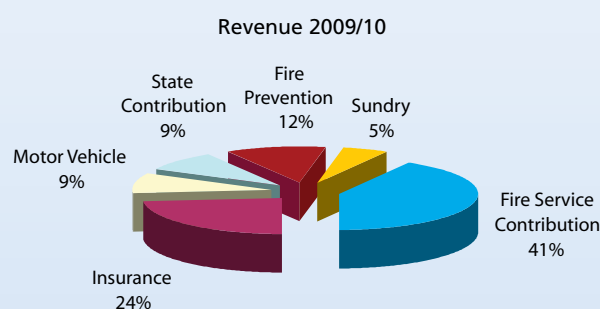
The SFC was also successful in obtaining Commonwealth equipment grants totalling \$27,570.37 for nine volunteer brigades under the Volunteer Grants 2009 initiative – Community Investments Program.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

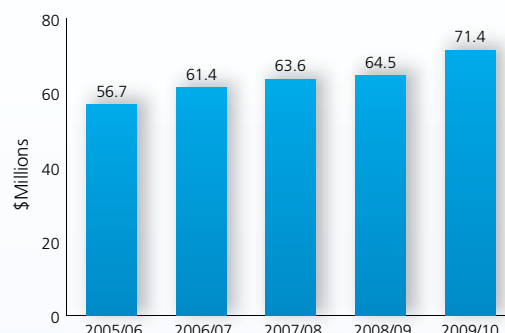
The Net Surplus for the SFC for 2009/10 was \$4.4 million, compared to a surplus of \$2.6 million for 2008/09, an increase of \$1.8 million. Income for the 12 months to June 2010 was \$72.0 million compared to \$62.9 for the same period last financial year. The major positive variations related to the Fire Service Contribution, the Insurance Fire Levy, the State Government Contribution and Fire Prevention Charges and Sundry Income. The State Government wildfire reimbursements increased by \$1.0 million in 2009/10 due to a busier wildfire season. Expenses from Ordinary Activities for the 12 months to June 2010 were \$67.6 million compared to \$60.3 million for the same period last financial year. The major variation related to Employee Related Expenses, Operations and Financial and Other Expenses. Employee Related Expenses increased by \$2.4 million as a result of enterprise bargaining agreements. Operations increased by \$2.3 million primarily due to wildfire fighting costs and Financial and Other Expenses increased by \$2.9 million due to the cost of sales of communication alarm equipment and fire safety services and equipment.

Net Assets for 2009/10 totalled \$84.6 million as compared to \$74.2 million for 2008/09, an increase of \$10.4 million due partly to a positive trading performance and a significant decline in the unfunded balance of the SFC Superannuation Scheme.

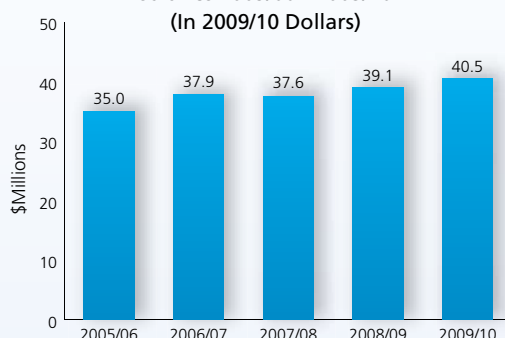
An overview of the major revenue sources is detailed below.



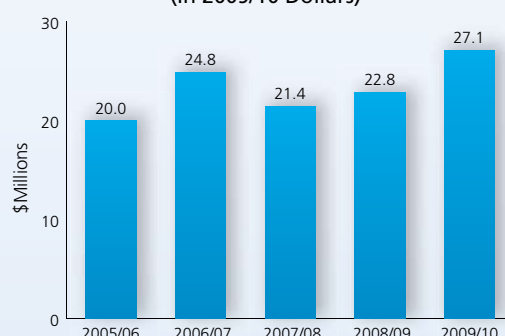
**Total Revenue 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



**Salaries 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



**Other Operating Expenses 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



## State Government Contribution

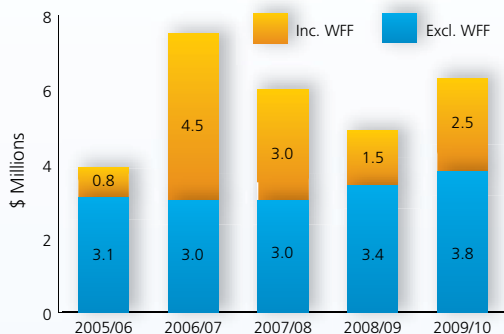
The Treasurer must pay to the SFC, out of money appropriated by the Parliament for the purpose, such amount as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards defraying the operating costs of the TFS. The contribution in 2009/10 was \$6.3 million and represented nine per cent of the total revenue of the Service for 2009/10.

The cost of fighting wildfires is mostly reimbursed by the State Government. From 1 July 1987, these costs have been reimbursed by the State Government in the same year in which the expenditure was incurred. By arrangement with the Department of Treasury and Finance, the SFC is required to meet the first \$35,000 for wildfire fighting costs and the State Government meets the remainder. In 2009/10,



the State Government reimbursed the SFC \$2.5 million for wildfire fighting costs.

**State Contribution 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



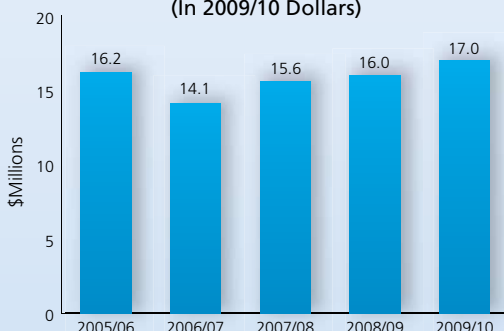
#### Commonwealth Government Contribution

The total Commonwealth Government Contribution of \$0.9 million comprised one per cent of the total revenue received by the SFC. A general contribution of \$163,000 was provided. The major purpose of the general contribution is to meet the costs associated with providing fire prevention and protection to Commonwealth Government properties in Tasmania. As part of the National Aerial Firefighting strategy Tasmania also received \$614,000 from the Commonwealth (DOTARS) through NAFC towards the standing charges of two medium capacity helicopter assigned to Tasmania during January and February. Funds totalling \$78,000 were provided by the Commonwealth and included \$50,000 for a Volunteer Supportive Brigade Practices Program and \$28,000 for volunteer brigade equipment grants.

#### Insurance Fire Levy

Insurance companies are responsible for the collection of the Insurance Fire Levy. Collections for 2009/10 were \$17.0 million which equated to 24 per cent of total revenue. The contribution rate is an amount equal to two per cent of gross premium income on marine cargo insurance, 14 per cent on aviation hull insurance and 28 per cent of gross premium income on all other prescribed classes of insurance.

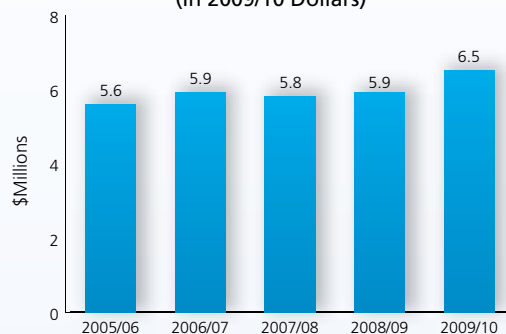
**Insurance Fire Levy 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



#### Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The motor vehicle levy contribution of \$6.5 million collected by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources represents nine per cent of total revenue. The general levy for motor vehicles was \$15, effective from 1 July 2009 and for pensioners \$10 per vehicle, effective from 1 July 2008. Motor cycles are excluded.

**Motor Vehicle Fire Levy 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)



#### Fire Service Contribution

The Fire Service Contribution is collected by local councils on behalf of the SFC. Fire Service Contributions on properties

**Fire Service Contribution 2005/06 - 2009/10**  
(In 2009/10 Dollars)

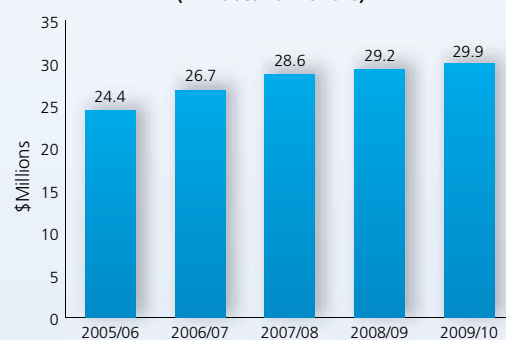


Photo courtesy of The Mercury.

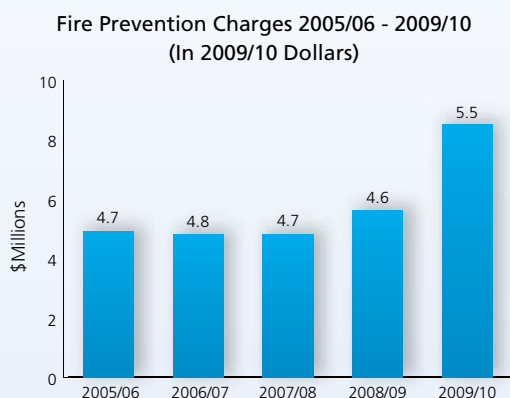


# Our Resources

for 2009/10 amounted to \$29.9 million and represented 41 per cent of total revenue. The levels of contribution payable by ratepayers vary throughout the State according to whether ratepayers are in urban or country areas. The objective of the demand on ratepayers is to ensure equitable contributions are applied to ratepayers, based on the assessed annual values of their respective urban or country properties and the level of fire protection provided. Local authorities are paid a four per cent collection fee by the SFC and this amounted to \$1.2 million in 2009/10.

## Fire Prevention Charges

The SFC generates revenue through its community fire safety activities including the sale and servicing of fire safety and alarm equipment, commercial training, alarm rentals, alarm monitoring and network fees, inspection fees and avoidable false alarm fees. Revenue raised in 2009/10 was \$8.5 million or 12 per cent of total revenue. The increase was largely due to additional revenue received from the sale of alarm equipment and the introduction of an alarm network fee.



## Sundry Income

Sundry income is derived from a number of sources including profit on sale of non-current assets, donations, interest received, reimbursement of occupancy costs from co-located emergency services and other sundry sources. Revenue raised in 2009/10 was \$2.9 million or four per cent of total revenue.

## PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The SFC allocated \$5.8 million for its capital program for the 2009/10 financial year the same as for 2008/09. The allocation included \$2.8 million for fire appliances, \$1.1 million for passenger vehicle replacements, \$0.6 million for land and buildings and \$1.2 million for plant and equipment.

## Building Program

A total of \$0.6 million was allocated for land and buildings in 2009/10. The fire station build program continues to be an important priority for the SFC. Major works for 2009/10

included new stations for Brady's Lake, St Patrick's River and Tunbridge Brigades at an estimated cost of \$300,000. The three brigades respond to all emergency incidents, including structural and MVAs. The new stations are being built from steel framed colorbond and each having a single engine bay complete with meeting room, toilets, kitchenette and storage and office facilities. The stations once completed will have a concrete hardstand at the front of the fire appliance entrance. A number of smaller volunteer brigade building projects were also undertaken. The following stations were opened in 2009/10: Runnymede, Upper Huon, Molesworth, Parattah, Gravelly Beach, George Town and Pipers River.

## Appliance Replacement Program

In line with the concept of appliance evolution, fleet capability and crew safety, funding for the refurbishment and remounting of existing 3,000 litre single cab heavy tanker fire bodies onto crew cab chassis was scheduled for 2009/10. A budget of \$2.3 million was allocated to undertake the upgrade process on 14 appliances. The 14 four wheel drive vehicles will be used to replace existing single cab heavy tankers. The replacements will involve the refurbishment of the existing fire body module, removing it from the single cab and remounting it to the new heavy cab chassis. The upgrade will boost the vehicles' capabilities as a fire fighting appliance and deliver significant benefits from a safety point of view. The new vehicles will offer improved functionality, and importantly, provide in-cab seating for a crew of five, negating the need for crew to be seated on the rear of the appliance. One Scania Heavy Pumper was purchased and allocated to the Hobart Fire Brigade, in line with the heavy pumper replacement program schedule at a cost of approximately \$0.6 million. The TFS was the first fire agency within Australasia to purchase a 2011 Euro5 emission compliant crew cab pumper in the interest of decreased emissions and reduced environmental impact. Three USAR modules were completed during the financial year, providing the TFS with a USAR capability in line with the relevant national standards.

## Plant and Equipment Program

The plant and equipment allocation of \$1.2 million included computer hardware and software, communications equipment, and other plant and equipment. The major information technology project included the upgrade of the Commission's finance system which is over 16 years old, establishment of a disaster recovery site at Cambridge and the replacement of the communications equipment including hand held radios, pagers, base stations and telemetry equipment. The total allocation for computer and communications equipment for 2009/10 was \$0.9 million. An allocation of \$0.3 million was also provided for firefighting equipment (\$0.2M) and other plant and equipment (\$0.1M).

## System Upgrades

### Communication Upgrades

#### Fire Alarm System Upgrade

Building Fire Alarm systems have been upgraded across the state to connect to the new TFS Alarm monitoring network. This service replaces the Telstra fire line voice grade data line services which are to be withdrawn after 31 July 2010.

#### Radio System Upgrades

This year we have continued to upgrade both our radio and paging networks with the installation of two new radio repeaters in the south of the State, one at Mt Koonya near Nubeena and the second near Tarraleah, both installations are to improve radio communications black spots particularly for RAR incidents on main tourist routes. Upgrades to paging system transmitters were funded and completed at Bicheno and Latrobe to improve general coverage to enhance response of local emergency services. We continued to upgrade communications systems at local volunteer stations across the State with new brigade radios being installed in 15 stations. The replacement program for both mobile and handheld radios continued across the State as required with 35 radios replaced this year. We also installed 25 new radios in AT ambulances as well as provided ongoing systems provisioning and services to AT and SES for radio communications and dispatch paging services.

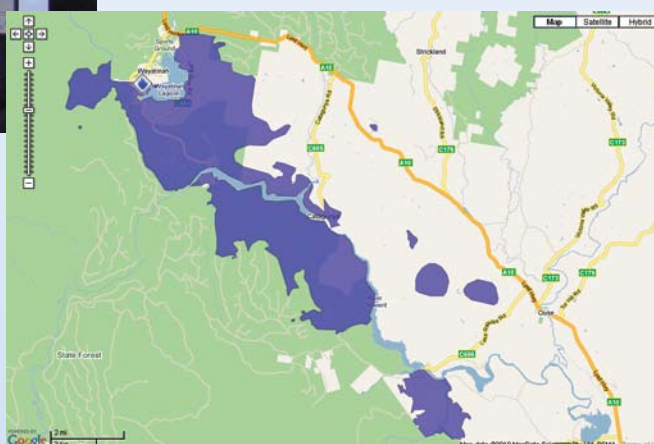
### Station Security and Communications Systems Upgrades

Fourteen fire stations had security system upgrades with some stations being rewired to provide better phone and computer infrastructure for local incident management.

### Computer System Developments

#### Fire Boundary Mapping

One of the key issues facing IMTs is the ability to gather information on the location and extent of bushfires in a timely way. The speed at which the fire boundary can be sent back was identified as a critical factor. The IMT not only needs to gather information on the location and extent of bushfires in a timely way to make a rapid assessment of the fire, but the information is also needed on the TFS website to provide information to the public and media outlets. The new fire boundary mapping system automates many manual process. The system allows firefighters to map fire boundaries and highlight points of interest, such as properties in danger and get the information back to decision makers almost instantly. The speed at which the information can be sent back means not only that the IMT team can make a rapid assessment of the fire, but the information can also be used on the TFS website to provide information to the public and media outlets. The solution is multifaceted and uses inexpensive off the shelf components and existing infrastructure already owned by the TFS. Fault tolerance and resilience were important factors of the design.





# Our Resources

## Satellite Broadband Trailer

The manufacture of the satellite dish trailer was completed in 2009/10. It is used when IMTs are set up in remote locations where there are no existing computer network connections available. It provides computer network connection to the TFS network at a speed of two megabytes per second and there are also two voice over internet protocol phones for voice communications. The trailer has its own generator or can be powered from 240V. The computers and phones can be set up some distance from the trailer as there is a wireless bridge to communicate to the trailer.

## Computer System Upgrades

### The Desktop Computer Upgrade

The replacement of almost two thirds the fleet of desktop computers occurred in 2009/10 and was combined with an upgrade to Microsoft Office 2007 and the deployment of Windows XP service pack 3. This was a significant upgrade and required training programs to be delivered to all TFS employees.

## Video Conferencing

Extension of the video conferencing capabilities of the TFS was completed this financial year. The changes include a permanent installation in the training facility at Cambridge, mobile installations at Hobart Headquarters and the ability to video conference with TFS PCs and PCs on the internet.

## TRIM Upgrade

TFS's record management system, TRIM, was successfully upgraded to the latest V6 release. It was necessary as our version was reaching end of support.

## Finance System

Work on implementing a new finance system commenced in 2009/10 with business reviews, design and configuration and training of staff. The new system is planned to go live in the following financial year. The accounting system selected is used extensively by many Tasmanian Government departments and agencies. The system has a number of features that when implemented will result in efficiency improvements, including electronic ordering, electronic work flow approval, the scanning and attachment of documentation to transactions, bar-coding of stock and the ability to enter some stock transactions via hand-held scanners. The system will also provide a comprehensive solution to TasFire Equipment's needs for a client asset management and service scheduling system and it will also provide better management and reporting of assets and maintenance of assets. It is anticipated that the new system will be progressively rolled out over most of the forthcoming year.

## PRIORITIES 2010/11

- Implementation of a new financial system.
- Continue to assess and report on budget performance against set targets.
- Continue to update and implement five year capital rolling build programs for fire appliances and buildings.
- Continue to develop intranet and internet services.
- Identify and seek funding for future projects including skill development and capability, and environmental responsibilities.
- Identify current resource allocation models and their appropriateness.

## GLOSSARY

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
AIIMS	Australian Inter Service Incident Management System
AT	Ambulance Tasmania
BCRC	Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre
ChIPC	Child Injury Prevention Coalition
CISM	Critical Incident Stress Management
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOTARS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
EMT	Executive Management Team
FireComm	State Operations Dispatch and Communications Centre
FIRM	Fire Incident Response Management system
FT	Forestry Tasmania
IMT	Incident Management Team
IT	Information Technology
JFLIP	Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident
NAFC	National Aerial Firefighting Centre
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PODS	Portable On-Demand System
PWS	Parks & Wildlife Service
RAR	Road Accident Rescue
SES	State Emergency Service
SFC	State Fire Commission
TasPol	Tasmania Police
TFB	Total Fire Ban
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VBRC	Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2009/10

The accompanying financial statements, including notes to accounts, are provided to disclose activities funded both within and outside the Public Account. These statements have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

<b>CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	35
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	35
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	38
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	40
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS	41

## STATE FIRE COMMISSION CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the State Fire Commission have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979* from proper accounts and records.

In the opinion of the Commissioners of the State Fire Commission;

- the financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results and cash flows for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and the statement of financial position at 30 June 2010 of the State Fire Commission;
- the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, and
- at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Commission will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



M W Brown AFSM BSocSc MIFireE EFO  
**CHIEF OFFICER**




P J Kingston BEc(Hons) MAICD  
**COMMISSION MEMBER**

9 September 2010



# Financial Report 2009/10



## Tasmanian Audit Office

STRIVE | LEAD | EXCEL | TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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14 September 2010

Mr M W Brown  
Chief Officer  
State Fire Commission  
GPO Box 1526  
**HOBART TAS 7001**

Dear Mr Brown

**STATE FIRE COMMISSION – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

The audit of the financial statements for the State Fire Commission has now been completed. I have issued my audit report on the financial statements, a copy of which is enclosed.

**Audit Findings**

A Memorandum of audit findings is currently being completed in consultation with management and will follow shortly.

**Auditor-General's Annual Report**

Draft commentary for inclusion in our Annual Report to Parliament, scheduled for completion and tabling by mid-November 2010, is currently being prepared and will be forwarded for feedback in due course.

**Review of the Annual Report**

It would also be appreciated if you could forward a copy of the final draft of the Commission's annual report for review by our contractor prior to its publication. This review will be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 720 *Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Reports*, to identify any material inconsistencies between the financial statements and other information disclosed in the annual report.

If you have any queries regarding the audit or any other matters, please contact Mr Ric De Santi on 6226 0100.

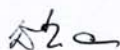
To provide independent assurance to the Parliament and Community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public sector.  
• Professionalism • Respect • Camaraderie • Continuous Improvement • Customer Focus •

**Making a Difference**



Appreciation is expressed for the assistance and co-operation provided to my contractor and staff during the course of the audit.

Yours sincerely



H M Blake  
**AUDITOR-GENERAL**

Encl.

Copy to:  
The Hon L E Thorp MLC, Minister for Police and Emergency Management

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***Making a Difference***



# Financial Report 2009/10

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fire Service Contribution	1(p)	29,856	28,434
Insurance Fire Levy	1(o)	17,016	15,574
State Government Contribution	11	6,349	4,821
Motor Vehicle Fire Levy	1(q)	6,457	5,739
Fire Prevention Charges	12	8,523	5,480
Sundry Income	13	2,939	2,276
Commonwealth Government Contribution	11	855	573
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>71,994</b>	<b>62,897</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee Related Expenses	1(j),(k), 14	40,538	38,079
Public Relations, Subscriptions and Consultants	15	1,150	1,350
Learning and Development		487	547
Operations Expenses	16	9,210	6,889
Protective Clothing and Uniforms	17	712	1,134
Depreciation	7	4,688	4,591
Financial and Other Expenses	18	7,158	4,298
Insurance		827	618
Borrowing Costs	19	336	337
Repairs and Maintenance	20	1,551	1,490
Minor Equipment Under \$2,000	21	900	953
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>67,557</b>	<b>60,287</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	22	<b>4,437</b>	<b>2,610</b>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Gain/(Loss) on movement in SFC Super Scheme obligation	9, 22	5,212	(9,394)
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve	23	797	3,171
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		6,009	(6,223)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	24	<b>10,446</b>	<b>(3,612)</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	Reserves \$'000	Retained Surpluses \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
<b>Balance as at 1 July 08</b>		<b>10,321</b>	<b>67,443</b>	<b>77,764</b>
Profit attributable to the SFC	22	-	2,610	2,610
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	22, 23	3,171	(9,394)	(6,223)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 09</b>		<b>13,492</b>	<b>60,659</b>	<b>74,151</b>
Profit attributable to the SFC	22	-	4,437	4,437
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	9, 22, 23	797	5,212	6,009
<b>Balance as at 30 June 10</b>	23	<b>14,289</b>	<b>70,308</b>	<b>84,597</b>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1(n),2,10,26(a)	8,938	6,884
Receivables	1(e),3,10	1,960	1,863
Inventories	1(d)	1,672	2,713
Other Current Assets	4	2,886	1,857
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>15,456</b>	<b>13,317</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Work in Progress	1(f)	5,686	5,851
Property, Plant and Equipment	1(g),(h),(i), 7	88,873	85,920
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>94,559</b>	<b>91,772</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>110,015</b>	<b>105,088</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables and Income in Advance	1(m), 8,10	4,413	4,770
Provision for Employee Related Expenses	1(j), 9	9,907	9,604
Borrowings	1(m), 10	1,368	1,830
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>15,688</b>	<b>16,204</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for Employee Related Expenses	1(j), 9	870	1,123
SFC Superannuation Fund Net Liability	1(k), 9	5,529	10,741
Borrowings	1(m), 10	3,330	2,868
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>9,729</b>	<b>14,732</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>25,417</b>	<b>30,936</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>84,598</b>	<b>74,152</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Surpluses	22	70,308	60,659
Reserves	23	14,290	13,493
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	24	<b>84,598</b>	<b>74,152</b>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.





# Financial Report 2009/10

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Cash Receipts from Operating Activities		69,176	60,425
Cash Payments from Operating Activities		(60,712)	(54,489)
Interest Paid		(336)	(337)
Interest Received		98	165
<b>Net Cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	26(b)	<b>8,226</b>	<b>5,764</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment		412	323
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		(6,584)	(6,049)
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>		<b>(6,172)</b>	<b>(5,726)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Repayment of loan		(1,368)	(1,500)
Proceeds from loan		1,368	1,500
<b>Net Cash used in Financing Activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>2,054</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Financial Period</b>		<b>6,884</b>	<b>6,846</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Financial Period</b>	26(a)	<b>8,938</b>	<b>6,884</b>

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

#### (a) Business Details of the State Fire Commission

The State Fire Commission (the Commission) is a Statutory Corporation created under Section 7 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (the Act) of Tasmania, Australia. The Tasmania Fire Service was created under Section 6 of the Act and is under the control of the Commission.

The role of the Commission is to protect life, property and the environment from the impact of fire and other emergencies. It delivers all of its services through its operational arm, the Tasmania Fire Service, which also operates under the business names of TasFire Equipment and TasFire Training. Its principal activities are emergency response (fire, vehicle accidents, biological and chemical hazards, etc.), preventative fire safety through community education and training, sales and servicing of fire protection equipment and administration of the *General Fire Regulations* including such activities as approving building plans in relation to fire safety and issuing various permits.

The Australian Business Number for the Commission and its operating entities is 68 039 681 690. The Head Office of the Commission is on the Corner of Melville and Argyle Streets, Hobart, Tasmania.

At 30 June the Commission had 459.6 employees (full time equivalents). Last year it had 462.1 employees.

#### (b) Basis of Financial Statements

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations, and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. It has been prepared on the basis of historical costs except for the revaluation of land and buildings, and does not take into account changing money values. Accounting policies used are consistent with those of the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Australian Accounting Standards include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). Compliance with AEIFRS may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as AEIFRS includes requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Commission is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under AEIFRS that do not comply with IFRS.

#### (c) System of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting that brings to account known assets and liabilities at balance date. Income is recognised when an increase in future economic benefits related to an increase in an asset or a decrease in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. Expenses are recognised when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. All amounts shown in the financial statements are in thousands of dollars unless otherwise stated. The system of accounting complies with the requirements of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.

#### (d) Inventories

Consumable stores are expensed at the time of purchase. Stock on hand is valued at the lower of average cost and net realisable value.

#### (e) Receivables

Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost less any impairment losses. The collectability of debts is assessed at year-end and a specific provision is made for any doubtful accounts. Due to the short settlement period, receivables are not discounted back to their present value. The Commission's average trading terms are 30 days and no material interest is charged on overdue accounts.

#### (f) Work in Progress

Capital Work in Progress is valued at the cost of material, labour and labour oncosts for work to date. Capital Work in Progress excludes certain commitments for outstanding purchase orders and unperformed work under existing contracts (Note 6).

#### (g) Plant, Property and Equipment

##### Asset Revaluation

On revaluation, the Provision for Depreciation accounts are transferred to the related asset accounts. The assets are then depreciated over their estimated remaining useful lives using their revalued amount as the base.

When a class of assets is revalued upwards, that part of the revaluation increment that reverses previously expensed revaluation decrements for that class of assets is treated as revenue, and any excess is credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

When a class of assets is revalued downwards, that part of the revaluation decrement that reverses a credit balance in the Asset Revaluation Reserve relating to that class of assets is debited to the Reserve, and any excess decrement is expensed.

##### Land and Buildings

Freehold land and buildings are valued at fair value. Cost is considered to be the best measure of fair value for recently purchased property. Where available, in years subsequent to acquisition, the Valuer-General's valuation or a commercial valuation is used. The Valuer-General progressively revalues land and buildings in a systematic manner, which is both independent and consistent.

During the year ended 30 June 2010, Land was revalued upwards by \$0.320M and Buildings were revalued upwards by \$0.477M. These revaluation increments were credited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

##### Fire Appliances, Passenger Vehicles and Plant and Equipment

Internal expenses incurred in the fabrication of Fire Appliances and the construction of Radio and Communications Equipment are capitalised.

Passenger vehicles are valued at cost.

Plant and Equipment is at cost and is comprised of Fire Fighting Equipment, Workshop and Other Equipment, Radio and Communications Equipment, Office Furniture and Equipment and Computer Equipment.



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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Items of Plant and Equipment with a purchase price of less than \$2,000 are expensed at the time of purchase. Items of Plant and Equipment with a cost of \$2,000 or more are shown at cost less depreciation and are written off over their expected useful life to the Commission on a straight line basis. Equipment is not depreciated until full operational status is attained.

Expenditure incurred in relation to plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisitions are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits, in excess of the originally assessed performance of the assets will flow to the Commission in future years. Where these costs represent separate components they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their useful lives.

### Provision for Depreciation

Items of Property, Plant and Equipment, including buildings, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use. All items are depreciated using the straight line method of depreciation at the following range of rates:

Asset Class	Range of Rates
Buildings	1% to 3.3%
Motor Vehicles	4% to 20%
Fire Appliances	4% to 5%
Plant and Equipment	6.6% to 33.3%

### (h) Impaired Assets

Assets are reviewed at balance date for impairment using a range of impairment indicators. Where an asset is deemed to be impaired, its recoverable amount is estimated, and if materially lower than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. Any resulting impairment loss (or gain) is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in *Financial and Other Expenses (or Sundry Revenue)* unless the asset has previously been revalued upwards, in which case it is recognised as a reversal up to the amount of the previous revaluation and any excess is recognised through profit or loss.

### (i) Assets Held for Sale

In accordance with AASB 5 *Non-current Assets held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, Non-Current Assets are reclassified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. They are stated at the lower of carrying value and fair (net recoverable) value less disposal costs. Provision for Depreciation accounts are transferred to the related asset accounts and the assets are then revalued to their estimated net recoverable value with any resulting impairment gains or losses disclosed in the Income Statement. Non-Current

Assets held for sale are transferred to Current Assets and are not depreciated. Assets held for sale are sold in accordance with the Commission's policy in relation to the useful life of assets. It is expected that assets held for sale will be sold within twelve months. Motor Vehicles and Fire Appliances are disposed of at auction or other public sale. (Note 5)

### (j) Provision for Employee Related Expenses

No cash reserve has been set aside to meet commitments from the Provision for Employee Related Expenses and commitments will be met as they fall due. The Provision is comprised of Provisions for Long Service Leave, Annual Leave, Superannuation and Payroll Tax.

**Provision for Long Service Leave** is made for all employees. The liability is the sum of the existing entitlements and an estimate of future entitlements expected to arise from service completed at 30 June.

In determining the liability for expected future entitlements, consideration has been given to known future increases in wage and salary rates, and experiences with staff separations. Estimated future accrued leave has been discounted using the rates applied to national government securities at balance date, which best match the terms of maturity of the related liabilities.

The current provision is the sum of the present entitlements to leave (i.e. the liability relating to employees with 9 or more years' service) and the balance of the provision is treated as the non-current provision.

The **Provision for Annual Leave** represents employee entitlements due and accrued as at 30 June. The provision has been calculated using the remuneration rates the Commission expects to pay when the obligations are settled.

**Superannuation and Payroll Tax Provisions** are calculated by applying the appropriate superannuation and payroll tax rates to the liabilities calculated for Long Service Leave and Annual Leave.

**Sick Leave.** The Commission does not provide for sick leave. All of the Commission's sick leave is non-vesting, and it is thus inappropriate to make provision for future sick leave.

### (k) Superannuation

The Commission up until 30 April 2006, by virtue of the *State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Act 1994*, operated the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme for employees of the State Fire Commission classified under the *Tasmanian Fire Fighting Industry Employees Award*. This scheme was closed to new members on 30 June 2005. Effective 1 May 2006 the *State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Act 1994* was repealed by the *Retirement Benefits (State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme) Act 2005*. The Scheme is now administered by the Retirement Benefits Fund Board and the defined benefits component of the Scheme is now a sub-fund of the Retirement Benefits Fund. The accumulation benefits component was transferred to the Tasmanian Accumulation Scheme and forms part of the Retirement Benefits Fund. The Commission remains responsible for ensuring adequate



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

funding of the defined benefits component of the Scheme. The Commission's net obligation in relation to the Scheme is recorded in the SFC Superannuation Fund Net Liability if it is a liability or in SFC Superannuation Fund Net Asset if it is an asset and net movement in the obligation is recorded in the Statement of Recognised Income and Expense. Actuarial gains and losses in relation to this fund are recognised in the year they are incurred. (Note 9)

The Commission also makes employer superannuation contributions based as a minimum on the Commonwealth's Superannuation Guarantee rate for State Award employees. These employees may elect to have their contributions forwarded to any complying superannuation scheme.

Prior to 1 July 1986 the State Fire Commission maintained its own fully funded superannuation scheme for Commission employees who contributed to the Retirement Benefits Fund. As at 30 June 1986 the provision had accumulated to \$2,447,447 and this amount was recorded in the Commission's accounts. As at 1 July 1986 accounting for Retirement Benefits Fund Superannuation entitlements was transferred to the State Treasury. A payment representing the provision as at 30 June 1986 of \$2,447,447 was made to the State Treasury on the condition that the Government would fund the existing and future superannuation liability of Commission employees.

#### (l) Investments

The Commission conducts its investment and borrowing programmes with the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation (Tascorp) and private investment managers.

Investments are carried at fair (face) value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

#### (m) Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or where appropriate, a shorter period.

The Commission manages trade creditor accounts to ensure timely payments and no material interest is paid on these liabilities.

#### (n) Cash and Short Term Deposits

Cash comprises cash on hand and deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. All cash transactions are recorded through the Commission's bank account.

Cash and short-term deposits are carried at fair (face) value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

#### (o) Insurance Fire Levy

Contributions are received from insurance companies in respect of premium income on certain prescribed classes of insurance where the risks insured are situated in Tasmania. Contributions are received monthly with an approved lodgement return. The current insurance fire levy is 2% on marine cargo insurance, 14% on aviation hull insurance, and 28% on other classes of insurance. The first two rates were established in November 1986 and the last was increased from 14% in October 1990.

#### (p) Fire Service Contribution

Contributions are received from Local Councils through a fire service contribution raised on properties. A minimum contribution was initially implemented in 1991 to provide additional funds to re-equip volunteer brigades. The minimum contribution is \$33 for the current year and this was increased from \$32 on 1 July 2009.

#### (q) Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The State Fire Commission receives income raised through a fire levy applied to all registered vehicles. This is collected by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles via the vehicle registration fee and forwarded to the State Fire Commission. The current fire levy raised through vehicle registration is \$15 per vehicle and this was last increased from \$14 in July 2008.

#### (r) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is recognised as an asset or liability in the Statement of Financial Position. In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is classified within operating cash flows.

#### (s) Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take substantial time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale. All other borrowing costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

#### (t) Changes in Accounting Policies

The State Fire Commission has adopted all of the new and revised accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and are effective for the current annual reporting period. The adoption of new and revised accounting standards has had no material financial impact on the financial statements of the Commission.



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

The accounting standards applied this year are:

AASB amendment	Standards Affected	Outline of amendment and effect on Commission	Application Date of Standard	Application Date for Commission
AASB 2007-8	AASB 101	The Standard did not have a financial impact on the Financial Statements but required a number of changes in disclosures.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2007-10	AASB 101	Changes terminology in Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations). The Standard did not have a financial impact on the Financial Statements.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2008-5	Various	The amendments to some Standards resulted in accounting changes for presentation, recognition or measurement purposes, while some amendments that relate to terminology and editorial changes were expected to have no or minimal effect on accounting. The Standard did not have a material financial impact on the Financial Statements.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2009-1	AASB 123 Borrowing Costs, AASB 1, AASB 111	The amendments to some Standards resulted in accounting changes allowing not-for-profit public sector entities to choose whether to expense or capitalise borrowing costs attributable to qualifying assets. The Standard did not have a material financial impact on the Financial Statements.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2009-2	Various	Disclosures about Financial Instruments - Introduces new disclosure requirements for fair value measurement and refines existing disclosures on liquidity risk for financial instruments. There is no financial impact from the application of this Standard.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2007-06	AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements	Introduces a number of terminology changes as well as changes to the structure of the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Comprehensive Income. It is now a requirement that owner changes in equity be presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this revised Standard.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2009-7	Various	The amendments to some Standards and one Interpretation are to implement a number of editorial corrections. The Standard did not have a material financial impact on the Financial Statements.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB 2009-10		Reclassification of Financial Instruments permits the reclassification of certain non-derivative financial assets. The Commission does not intend to reclassify financial assets in the current period, accordingly there will be no financial impact.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09
AASB Interpretation 14	AASB 119 Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding	The interpretation clarifies when refunds or reductions in future contributions in relation to defined benefit assets should be regarded as available and provides guidance on the impact of minimum funding requirements (MFR) on such assets. It also gives guidance on when a MFR might give rise to a liability. The Interpretation will not have a material financial impact on the Financial Statements.	01-Jul-09	01-Jul-09

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

The following applicable Standards have been issued by the AASB and are yet to be applied:

AASB amendment	Standards Affected	Outline of amendment and effect on Commission	Application Date of Standard	Application Date for Commission
AASB 2009-5	Various	<p>The amendments to some Standards resulted in accounting or disclosure requirements in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of non-current assets held for sale or discontinued operations;</li> <li>• Disclosure of information about segment assets;</li> <li>• Current/Non-Current classification of convertible instruments;</li> <li>• Classification of expenditure on unrecognised assets;</li> <li>• Classification of leases of land and buildings;</li> <li>• Determining whether an entity is acting as a principal or agent;</li> <li>• Unit of accounting for goodwill impairment test; and</li> <li>• Recognition and measurement of certain financial instruments.</li> </ul> <p>The Standard did not have a material financial impact on the Financial Statements.</p>	1-Jul-10	1-Jul-10
AASB 2009-11	Various	<p>This amending Standard was released in December 2009 to make consequential changes to twenty standards and two interpretations arising from the issuance of AASB 9.</p>	1-Jul-13	1-Jul-13

#### (u) Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, the Commission is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by the Commission that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. The Commission has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>2. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on Hand	7	9
Cash at Bank	8,931	6,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,938</b>	<b>6,884</b>
<b>3. Receivables</b>		
Trade Debtors	1,720	1,463
GST Receivable	250	410
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(10)	(10)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>1,863</b>
<b>Aging of Trade Debtors</b>		
Current	1,344	1,159
30 - 60 days	276	245
60 - 90 days	58	24
90 - 120 days	42	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>1,463</b>
<b>4. Other Current Assets</b>		
Accrued Revenue	2,101	1,124
Prepayments	785	733
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>1,857</b>
<b>5. Assets Held for Sale</b>		
Assets held for sale at year end were not material.		
<b>6. Capital Commitments</b>		
Capital expenditure contracted but not provided in the accounts, and payable within one year:	37	279
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>7. Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Land</b>		
At Fair Value at 30 June	13,777	13,344
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,777</b>	<b>13,344</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
At Fair Value at 30 June	43,767	42,582
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,656)	(3,844)
<b>Written Down Value</b>	<b>39,111</b>	<b>38,738</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
At Cost	6,104	5,726
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,621)	(3,278)
<b>Written Down Value</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>2,448</b>
<b>Fire Appliances</b>		
At Cost	51,815	48,423
Accumulated Depreciation	(23,184)	(22,068)
<b>Written Down Value</b>	<b>28,631</b>	<b>26,355</b>
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
At Cost	24,048	23,211
Accumulated Depreciation	(19,177)	(18,175)
<b>Written Down Value</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>5,035</b>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Total Gross Value	139,511	133,285
Accumulated Depreciation	(50,638)	(47,365)
<b>Written Down Value</b>	<b>88,873</b>	<b>85,920</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 7. Property, Plant and Equipment (Continued)

#### Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2010

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Fire Appliances \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Carrying Amount 30 June 2009</b>	<b>13,343</b>	<b>38,738</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>26,354</b>	<b>5,036</b>	<b>85,920</b>
Transfer between Asset Classes	-	-	87	(87)	-	-
Additions	114	788	799	4,854	941	7,495
Revaluations	320	477	-	-	-	797
Depreciation Expense	-	(874)	(561)	(2,152)	(1,101)	(4,688)
Disposals	-	(18)	(290)	(338)	(5)	(651)
<b>Carrying Amount 30 June 2010</b>	<b>13,777</b>	<b>39,111</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>28,631</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>88,873</b>

#### Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2009

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Fire Appliances \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Carrying Amount 30 June 2008</b>	<b>11,718</b>	<b>36,644</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>25,601</b>	<b>4,520</b>	<b>81,266</b>
Transfer between Asset Classes	-	(389)	21	(21)	389	-
Additions	59	1,772	639	2,809	1,220	6,499
Revaluations	1,566	1,605	-	-	-	3,171
Depreciation Expense	-	(878)	(658)	(1,970)	(1,085)	(4,591)
Disposals	-	(16)	(337)	(65)	(8)	(425)
<b>Carrying Amount 30 June 2009</b>	<b>13,343</b>	<b>38,738</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>26,354</b>	<b>5,036</b>	<b>85,920</b>

### 8. Payables and Income in Advance

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Accrued Expenses	993	785
Trade Creditors	2,660	3,973
Capital Works Payables	532	12
Income Received in Advance	228	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>4,770</b>

### 9. Provision for Employee Related Expenses

#### Current Provisions

Provision for Long Service Leave	5,657	5,201
Provision for Annual Leave	2,590	2,785
Provision for Superannuation (1)	1,092	1,067
Provision for Payroll Tax (1)	568	551
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,907</b>	<b>9,604</b>

#### Non-Current Provisions

Provision for Long Service Leave	726	935
Provision for Superannuation (1)	94	123
Provision for Payroll Tax (1)	50	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>1,123</b>

(1) Provisions for Superannuation and Payroll Tax represent superannuation and payroll tax payable in relation to the Provisions for Long Service Leave and Annual Leave.



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 9. Provision for Employee Related Expenses (continued)

The following information relates to the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme net liability. It only relates to the defined benefits parts of the scheme and excludes any other liabilities or assets in relation to the scheme. The scheme is managed by the Retirement Benefits Fund.

	2010	2009
Number of defined benefit members at 30 June	117	289
Total Annual Salaries	\$'000 <b>\$8,344</b>	\$19,940
Total Accumulation Accounts	<b>(\$379)</b>	(\$851)

#### Assumptions

The following actuarial assumptions have been used in calculating the assets and liabilities associated with the State Fire Commission Superannuation Fund.

	2010	2009
<i>Discount rate p.a.</i>		
Gross of Tax	5.30%	5.60%
Net of Tax	4.50%	4.80%
<i>Salary increases p.a.</i>		
2009/2010	3.0%	5.0%
2010/2011 and after	3.0%	3.5%
<i>Crediting interest rate</i>	Equal to discount rate	Equal to discount rate
<i>Return on investments p.a.</i>	7.0%	7.5%
<i>Tax on investment income</i>	15%	15%
(adjustment to discount rate)		
<i>Tax on employer contributions</i>	15%	15%
<i>Member movements</i>	As per actuarial review at 1 May 2009	As per actuarial review at 30 June 2003

	2010	2009
<b>Assets and Liabilities Recognised</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of year	<b>(23,971)</b>	(62,050)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<b>18,442</b>	51,309
<b>Net Asset/(Liability) Recognised</b>	<b>(5,529)</b>	<b>(10,741)</b>

#### Income/Expense Recognised

Current service cost	1,681	1,097
Interest cost	2,806	3,240
Expected return on plan assets (2)	(2,515)	(4,535)
Net Actuarial (gains)/losses	(1,965)	12,349
Curtailment or settlement (gains)/losses	(3,386)	-
<b>Net (Income)/Expense Recognised</b>	<b>(3,379)</b>	<b>12,151</b>

Note (2) The expected return on plan assets is determined by weighting the expected long term return for each asset class by the expected long term allocation of assets to each asset class. Returns are net of investment tax and investment fees.

#### Reconciliation of Income/Expense Recognised

Gain/(Loss) on movement in SFC Super Scheme obligation (Disclosed in Statement of Recognised Income and Expense)	5,212	(9,394)
Employer Contributions (Defined Benefit) (Disclosed in Employee Related Expenses)	(1,833)	(2,757)
<b>Net Income/(Expense) Recognised</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>(12,151)</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 9. Provision for Employee Related Expenses (continued)

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Movement in Recognised Liability/(Asset)</b>		
Superannuation Liability/(Asset) at Beginning of Year	10,741	1,347
Recognised in Statement of Changes in Equity	(5,212)	9,394
<b>Superannuation Liability/(Asset) at Year-end</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>10,741</b>

#### Asset allocation

The table below shows the benchmark (target) asset allocation of the Scheme assets as at 30 June 2010.

#### Strategic Asset Allocation

	Actual Allocation 30 June 2010 %	Scheme Benchmark 2010 %	Scheme Benchmark 2009 %
Australian shares	25%	25%	25%
International shares	17%	21%	21%
Low Beta Strategies	4%	n/a	n/a
Unlisted Property	16%	16%	16%
Alternative Investments	20%	20%	16%
Fixed Interest (Australian and International)	12%	12%	10%
Cash	6%	6%	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Reconciliation of the Present Value of the Defined Benefit Obligation</b>		
<b>Present value of defined benefit obligation at start of year</b>	<b>62,050</b>	<b>63,669</b>
Current service cost	1,681	1,097
Interest cost	2,806	3,240
Member contributions and transfers from other funds	662	267
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(2,187)	(90)
Benefits and tax paid	(5,431)	(6,134)
Curtailments	(35,610)	-
<b>Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of year</b>	<b>23,971</b>	<b>62,050</b>

#### Reconciliation of the Fair Value of Plan Assets

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Fair value of plan assets at start of year</b>	<b>51,309</b>	<b>62,323</b>
Expected return on plan assets	2,515	4,535
Actuarial gains/(losses)	171	(11,848)
Employer contributions	1,440	2,166
Member contributions and transfers from other funds	662	267
Benefits and tax paid	(5,431)	(6,134)
Settlements and curtailments	(32,224)	-
<b>Fair value of plan assets at end of year</b>	<b>18,442</b>	<b>51,309</b>

#### General plan information

The Scheme was closed to new members on 30 June 2005.

Members of the Scheme are entitled to receive lump sum benefits on leaving service due to retirement, death, total and permanent disablement and resignation. An actuarial investigation into the Scheme was performed as at 1 May 2009 by Dr David Knox FIAA of Mercer Investment Nominees Limited. The investigation showed the following figures determined in accordance with AAS 25 *Financial Reporting by Superannuation Plans*:

	\$'000
<b>Value of Accrued Benefits at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>\$49,181</b>

The actuary recommended that the Commission should continue to make such contributions

- 11% of salaries, plus
- any deemed member contributions



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 9. Provision for Employee Related Expenses (continued)

The actuary recommended that the Employer (the Commission) should continue to make such contributions until the results of the next actuarial review, due 1 May 2012, have been considered by the Scheme Trustee.

The funding method used to make the contribution recommendation was the "attained age normal method". Under this method, contributions are set with the aim of providing benefits in respect of future service for existing members, adjusted for any excess or shortfall of assets over liabilities in respect of service prior to the investigation date. The recommended contributions may be adjusted in the short-term to ensure that the Scheme's financing objectives are met.

The economic assumptions used in the investigation were:

Rate of investment return	7.0% p.a.	thereafter (net of investment expenses and taxes on investment returns).
Rate of inflationary salary increases	4.5% p.a.	

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Historical information</b>		
Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of year	23,971	62,050
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	(18,442)	(51,309)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit in plan</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>10,741</b>
Experience adjustments - plan liabilities	(91)	(873)
Experience adjustments - plan assets	171	(11,848)
<b>Actual return on Scheme Assets</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>(7,313)</b>

### Expected Contributions

Based on the data provided, the assumptions used in this report and the recommendations from the 2009 actuarial investigation, the expected contributions to the Scheme for the year ending 30 June 2011 are detailed below. It is intended to make employer contributions of an additional 10% of benefits paid until the next actuarial investigation of the scheme.

	\$'000
Expected employer contributions to Defined Benefits	921
Expected employer contributions to employee Productivity accounts	251
Expected employer contributions on benefit payments	112
<b>Total Expected Employer contributions</b>	<b>1,284</b>
Expected member contributions (1)	418

*Note 1: includes deemed member contributions (i.e. members' contributions paid by salary sacrifice), net of 15% contribution tax.*

### In-house Assets

The fair value of Scheme assets does not include any of the Employer's financial instruments, property occupied by the Employer or other assets used by the Employer.

### Effect of Curtailments and Settlements

Since 30 June 2009 163 Scheme members have exited the Scheme on accepting a limited offer to transfer to accumulation benefits in other superannuation funds of the members' choice. This gave rise to a curtailment under AASB119 Employee Benefits. The gain or loss on a curtailment comprises the following:

- any resulting change in the present value of the defined benefit D70;
- any resulting change in the fair value of the plan assets; and
- any related actuarial gain and losses and past service costs that had not previously been recognised.

The table below shows the values of the defined benefit obligation and the expected value of plan assets as at 1 December 2009, which is the weighted average effective date of the transfers. The table shows that the assessed net impact of the curtailment was a reduction in the superannuation liability in the Commission's Statement of Financial Position of \$3,386,000.

Curtailment during 2009/10 (Values as at 1 December 2009)	Before Transfers \$'000	After Transfers \$'000	Curtailment \$'000
Present value of defined benefit obligation	65,186	29,576	35,610
Expected value of plan assets	52,630	20,406	32,224
<b>Superannuation Liability</b>	<b>12,556</b>	<b>9,170</b>	<b>3,386</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

A *curtailment* is an event that significantly reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces the accrual of defined benefits for a significant number of employees for some or all of their future services. A curtailment will occur when there is a significant reduction in the number of employees covered by the plan or where the plan is amended resulting in a reduction of benefits associated with the future service of current employees. Events causing a curtailment may include the termination or suspension of a plan.

A *settlement* occurs when an entity sponsoring a superannuation plan enters into an irrevocable transaction that eliminates all further legal or constructive obligation for all or a significant part of the benefits provided under the plan. Examples include the purchase of non-participating annuities for members or the payment of a lump sum payment to, or on behalf of, members in exchange for their right to receive benefits specified under the plan.

### 10. Financial Instruments Disclosures

The following tables detail the Commission's remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities and expected maturity for financial assets.

#### 2009 - 2010

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months to 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 + years	Total	Market Value
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>								
Non-interest bearing		7	1,960	-	-	-	<b>1,967</b>	1,967
Variable interest rate instruments	3.66%	8,931	-	-	-	-	<b>8,931</b>	8,931
		<b>8,938</b>	<b>1,960</b>	-	-	-	<b>10,898</b>	<b>10,898</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>								
Non-interest bearing		4,184	-	-	-	-	<b>4,184</b>	4,184
Fixed Rate Interest Bearing Liabilities	6.70%	-	-	1,368	3,330	-	<b>4,698</b>	4,752
		<b>4,184</b>	-	<b>1,368</b>	<b>3,330</b>	-	<b>8,882</b>	<b>8,936</b>

Comparative figures for 2008 - 2009 are detailed below:

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months to 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 + years	Total	Market Value
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>								
Non-interest bearing		9	1,863	-	-	-	<b>1,872</b>	1,872
Variable interest rate instruments	2.97%	6,875	-	-	-	-	<b>6,875</b>	6,875
		<b>6,884</b>	<b>1,863</b>	-	-	-	<b>8,747</b>	<b>8,747</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>								
Non-interest bearing		4,770	-	-	-	-	<b>4,770</b>	4,770
Fixed Rate Interest Bearing Liabilities	7.06%	-	-	1,830	2,868	-	<b>4,698</b>	4,920
		<b>4,770</b>	-	<b>1,830</b>	<b>2,868</b>	-	<b>9,468</b>	<b>9,690</b>

### Financial Risk management

The activities of the State Fire Commission are exposed to the following financial risks:

#### Credit Risk

The largest exposure to credit risk to the financial assets of the Commission relates to Trade Debtors. This exposure relates to the risk of financial loss due to debtors failing to discharge their financial obligations. This risk is significantly mitigated by the nature of the Commission's revenue, most revenue is collected by the Commission or other Government agencies as a legislative requirement and has virtually no credit risk. Sales to the public which carry credit risk are a small part of the Commission's revenue and bad debts have been immaterial in the past. The maximum credit risk exposure in relation to Trade Debtors is the carrying amount less the provision for doubtful debts (Notes 1(e), 3). The Commission is not materially exposed to any individual or group. Trading terms for the Commission's Trade Debtors is 30 days.



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### 10. Financial Instruments Disclosures (Continued)

#### Interest Rate Risk

The Commission's exposure to interest rate risk, and the effective weighted average interest rate by class of asset or liability is set out in the table below. Exposure arises predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the Commission intends to hold fixed rate assets and liabilities to maturity.

#### Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Commission will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. The cash inflow stream of the Commission is very consistent with some seasonality relating to quarterly collections. The major cash outflow is salaries which is also consistent. The Commission's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure it will always have sufficient liquidity. It monitors its cash flows and utilises an overdraft when needed.

#### Other Price Risk

The only sensitivity analysis performed on financial assets and liabilities is interest rate risk. Other price risks are not considered material.

#### Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis for 2009-2010:

	Carrying Amount	Interest Rate Risk			
		-1%		+1%	
		Impact on Operating Result	Impact on Equity	Impact on Operating Result	Impact on Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>30 June 2010</b>					
Financial Assets					
Cash	8,931	(89)	(89)	89	89
Trade Debtors	1,960	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>10,891</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Interest Bearing Liabilities	4,698	47	47	(47)	(47)
Payables	4,184	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>8,882</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(47)</b>

Comparative figures for 2008-2009 are detailed below:

	Carrying Amount	Interest Rate Risk			
		-1%		+1%	
		Impact on Operating Result	Impact on Equity	Impact on Operating Result	Impact on Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>30 June 2009</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash	6,875	(69)	(69)	69	69
Trade Debtors	1,863	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>8,738</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Interest Bearing Liabilities	4,698	47	47	(47)	(47)
Payables	4,770	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>9,468</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(47)</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>10. Financial Instruments Disclosures (Continued)</b>		
<b>Borrowing Facility</b>		
Total Facility (unsecured and subject to an annual review) (Includes a sub-limit of \$5M for working capital borrowings)	10,000	10,000
Allocated Facility	4,698	4,698
<b>Unused Facility</b>	<b>5,302</b>	<b>5,302</b>
<b>Bank Overdraft Facility</b>		
Total Facility (unsecured and subject to an annual review)	3,000	3,000
Unused Facility	3,000	3,000
<b>Credit Card Facility</b>		
Total Facility	400	400
Allocated Facility	260	283
<b>Facility Available</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Security on Borrowings</b>		
All borrowings are unsecured.		
<b>11. Contributions from State and Commonwealth Governments</b>		
Under section 101 of the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> the Treasurer must pay out of monies appropriated by Parliament, such amounts as the Treasurer determines appropriate towards the operating costs of the Commission. The Commonwealth Government pays the Commission an annual contribution towards the operating cost of brigades.		
Funds provided to the Commission are detailed below:	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>State Government Contributions</b>		
General Contribution	2,810	2,810
Bushfire Readiness Program - Operational	263	-
Bushfire Readiness Program - Capital	790	500
Wildfire Fighting Reimbursements	2,486	1,511
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,349</b>	<b>4,821</b>
<b>Commonwealth Government Contributions</b>		
General Contribution	163	158
Helicopter Hire	614	318
Volunteer Grants 2009	28	-
National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (Supportive Brigade Practices Program)	50	-
Emergency Management in Australia (Volunteer Recruitment Program)	-	35
Bushfire Mitigation Program	-	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>573</b>
<b>12. Fire Prevention Charges</b>		
Income is earned by the Commission's Service Divisions through the sale, inspection and maintenance of fire safety equipment, training and provision of other fire prevention services throughout the State. Income is recorded when the goods or services are provided. Fire Prevention Charges comprise:-		
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Sale of Fire Safety Services and Equipment	2,538	1,603
Sale of Alarm Equipment	2,408	577
Alarm Rental	804	826
Alarm Network Fee	502	9
Avoidable False Alarms	130	128
Commercial Training	928	1,146
Inspection Fees - TasFire Equipment	1,025	1,040
Inspection Fees - Building Safety	188	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>5,480</b>



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>13. Sundry Income</b>		
Reimbursement by Tasmanian Ambulance Service (1)	286	188
Road Accident Rescue	258	296
Interest Received	99	166
Wildfire Fighting Reimbursements (2)	1,814	219
Worker's Compensation Refunds	43	78
Reimbursement of Interstate & Overseas deployments	1	752
Communications	54	99
Other	384	478
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>2,276</b>
(1) Contribution for shared facilities and reimbursement for costs incurred in upgrading and maintaining the Tasmanian Ambulance Service radio network and communication centre. (Note 21)		
(2) Reimbursement from Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service for wildfire fighting.		
<b>14. Employee Related Expenses</b>		
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	30,094	27,141
Payroll Tax	2,272	2,153
Annual Leave	3,287	3,866
Long Service Leave	942	1,083
Superannuation (1)	3,944	3,836
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,538</b>	<b>38,079</b>
<b>(1) Superannuation Contributions:</b>		
State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme	1,833	2,757
Retirement Benefits Fund	1,594	879
Other Funds	522	86
Superannuation related to movement in provisions for Long Service Leave and Annual Leave	(5)	114
<b>Total Superannuation Expense</b>	<b>3,944</b>	<b>3,836</b>
<b>15. Public Relations, Subscriptions and Consultants</b>		
Advertising	618	484
Functions	49	44
Grants and Donations	24	36
Professional Fees	230	493
Subscriptions	204	255
Other	26	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,350</b>
<b>16. Operations Expenses</b>		
Communication Expenses	1,691	1,351
Computer Expenses	726	671
Consumables	346	270
Electricity	533	467
Fire Suppression & Control	133	94
Hire of Equipment	37	73
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,039	1,101
Municipal Rates	376	346
Office Cleaning	139	149
Printing and Stationery	141	169
Travel Expenses	450	626
Wildfire Fighting Helicopter Expenses	2,441	1,276
Wildfire Fighting Equipment Hire	939	66
Other	218	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,210</b>	<b>6,889</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>17. Protective Clothing and Uniforms</b>		
Protective Clothing	453	443
Uniforms	259	692
<b>Total</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1,134</b>
<b>18. Financial and Other Expenses</b>		
Audit Fees	41	40
Cost of Goods Sold		
Sale of Fire Safety Services and Equipment	1,699	888
Sale of Alarm Equipment	2,289	550
Fringe Benefits Tax	165	114
Local Government Collection Fees	1,194	1,138
Loss on Sale of Assets	13	102
Pensioner Rebates (Municipal)	922	830
Pensioner Rebates (Transport)	662	457
Stock Losses and Write Offs	86	9
Other	86	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,158</b>	<b>4,298</b>
<b>19. Borrowing Costs</b>		
Interest on Bank Overdraft	5	4
Interest on Interest Bearing Liabilities	331	333
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>20. Repairs and Maintenance</b>		
Communication Expenses	233	105
Computer Equipment	18	10
Fire Fighting Equipment	117	97
Land and Buildings	461	520
Motor Vehicles	670	714
Office Furniture	26	16
Workshop Equipment	27	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>1,490</b>
<b>21. Minor Equipment Under \$2,000</b>		
Communication Equipment	82	176
Computer Equipment	145	38
Fire Fighting Equipment	366	423
Office Furniture and Related Equipment	106	147
Tasmanian Ambulance Service Communications Equipment (Note 13)	77	72
Workshop Equipment	80	77
Other	44	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>953</b>
<b>22. Retained Surpluses</b>		
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) at the beginning of the year	60,659	67,443
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	4,437	2,610
Other movements in Retained Surpluses reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	5,212	(9,394)
<b>Retained Surpluses at year end</b>	<b>70,308</b>	<b>60,659</b>
<b>23. Reserves</b>		
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	13,493	10,321
<b>Add/(Less) Net Revaluation Increment/(Decrement)</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>3,171</b>
<b>Balance at year end</b>	<b>14,290</b>	<b>13,493</b>



# Financial Report 2009/10

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>24. Reconciliation of Total Equity</b>		
Total Equity at the beginning of the year	74,152	77,765
Total changes in equity reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	10,446	(3,613)
<b>Total Equity at year end</b>	<b>84,598</b>	<b>74,152</b>
<b>25. Remuneration of Auditors</b>		
The Tasmanian Audit Office audits the accounts for the State Fire Commission. The total remuneration to the Tasmanian Audit Office exclusive of GST was \$40,720 and \$40,300 in 2009.		
<b>26. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank. Cash at the end of the financial year shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows.		
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Bank Account	3,681	1,025
11am Call Account	5,250	5,850
On hand	7	9
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>8,938</b>	<b>6,884</b>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of Net Surplus to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>4,437</b>	<b>2,610</b>
<b>Add (Less) Non-Cash Items:</b>		
Depreciation	4,688	4,591
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of assets	13	102
<b>Net cash used in operating activities before change in assets and liabilities</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>7,303</b>
<b>Changes in Assets and Liabilities during the financial period</b>		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(97)	(821)
(Increase)/Decrease in accrued revenue	(977)	(224)
(Increase)/Decrease in inventory	1,040	(1,353)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	(52)	(23)
Increase/(Decrease) in payables/accruals	(876)	(216)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	49	1,097
<b>Net Cash from Operating activities</b>	<b>8,225</b>	<b>5,764</b>

## STATE FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The State Fire Management Council is established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. The Council's primary role is to develop a State Vegetation Fire Management Policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning. The Council comprises:

### Council Members:

- Chairperson nominated by the Minister (Stephen Geard)
- Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service (Mike Brown)
- Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation (Bob Gordon)
- General Manager of National Parks and Wildlife (Peter Mooney)
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (Tony Gee)
- Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (Greg Hickey)
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (Steve Bresnehan)

### Nominees:

- Nominee of the Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service (Gavin Freeman)
- Nominee of the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation (Tony Blanks)
- Nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Adrian Pyrke)

## 2009/10 Chairperson's Annual Report

As Chairman of the State Fire Management Council I am pleased to report on the activities of the Council, which met four times in the year ended 30 June 2010.

A major achievement of the Council was the revision and rewriting of the State Vegetation Fire Management Policy. The Committee has conducted a number of workshops through the year to progress the Policy. The revised Policy was presented to the Minister late in 2009. Following the revision of the Policy, and in light of the new Policy, the Council is now conducting a revision of the roles and functions of Fire Management Area Committees.

The advice of the Council continues to be sought on matters relating to air quality and fire management. This saw the trial of the Coordinated Smoke Management Strategy by the Forest Practices Authority during the 2009 burning season.

The Council is also involved in other vegetation fire related issues such as the impact of the Victorian Royal Commission into the 7 February 2009 Bushfires and the use of agricultural machinery (especially mowers, slashers and harvesters) on days of total fire bans.



S D Geard,  
**CHAIRMAN**

15 September 2010

## Compliance and Certification – Superannuation

### Superannuation Declaration

I, Mike Brown, Chair, State Fire Commission, hereby certify that the State Fire Commission has met its obligations under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* of the Commonwealth in respect of any employee who is a member of a complying superannuation scheme to which the State Fire Commission contributes.



M W BROWN AFSM BSocSc MIFireE EFO  
**CHIEF OFFICER**  
30 September 2010



P J Kingston BEc(Hons) MAICD  
**COMMISSION MEMBER**



HEAD OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSION ABN 68 039 681 690

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