

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Queensland Fire Department (QFD)
Name of the proposal	<i>Fire Services Amendment Regulation 2026</i>
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Fire Services Act 1990 (Fire Services Act); Fire Services Regulation 2011 (Fire Services Regulation)</i>
Date of issue	June 2026

For proposals noted in table below

Proposal type	Details
Minor and machinery in nature	<p>Minor and technical amendments</p> <p>The Amendment Regulation amends the definitions of 'full-time fire officer' and 'part-time fire officer' in section 8 of the Fire Services Regulation to reflect terminology used in the Fire Services Act. These amendments are considered minor and do not involve regulatory or policy change.</p>
Regulatory proposals where no RIA is required	<p>Annual increase to Emergency Management Levy (EML) contributions</p> <p>Most years, the amount of the EML property owners are required to contribute is increased to ensure it takes account of the impact of inflation. As the EML can be imposed quarterly and can be paid in cash, it must be a multiple of 20 cents (meaning a multiple of 5 cents for quarterly payments). EML contributions that do not increase evenly to a multiple of 20 cents are rounded down to ensure that any increase does not exceed the desired rate of increase.</p> <p>The Amendment Regulation applies an increase of up to 3.4 per cent to the EML contributions for 2026-27, subject to the rounding process, consistent with the Government Indexation Rate for 2026-27.</p> <p>QFD has assessed this proposal as machinery in nature as it involves the annual update to the EML. There is no change to regulatory policy.</p> <p>Extended pause on levy class increases to the EML</p> <p>On 19 May 2025, Government decided to pause any levy class increases for the 2025-26 financial year in 11 levy districts. These were levy districts which, but for the pause, would have seen an increase in EML contributions for prescribed property owners from 1 July 2025.</p>

Proposal type	Details
	<p>To implement the pause on levy class increases, the <i>Fire Services and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025</i> amended the Fire Services Regulation to provide that for the 2025-26 financial year the levy class of all levy districts, other than Yelarbon, was the same levy class that applied to the levy district for the 2024-25 financial year.</p> <p>Yelarbon was exempted from the pause as it moved to a lower levy class for the 2025-26 financial year (from class D to class E) following the closure of the local Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) Station.</p> <p>The Amendment Regulation extends the pause on levy class increases across all levy districts in the State until 30 June 2029.</p> <p>The proposed changes are temporary and will provide a direct financial benefit to prescribed property owners in levy districts that would otherwise have seen a levy class increase.</p> <p>It is anticipated that local governments will be able to implement the extended pause without any significant difficulties as there will be no change to the EML rates for prescribed properties, other than annual indexation increases.</p> <p>The extended pause will result in a loss of revenue to QFD which cannot be accurately quantified. The current pause on levy class increases is benefitting 11 levy districts and is expected to result in a loss of revenue to QFD of approximately \$3.6 million over the 2025-26 financial year.</p> <p>Extending the pause on levy class increases in those 11 levy districts out to 30 June 2029 is anticipated to result in a further loss of revenue to QFD of approximately \$11.6 million, with the total loss across the four-year period being approximately \$15.2 million.</p> <p>Further revenue losses associated with all levy district boundaries remaining the same over the period (not just the 11 districts already paused) and not capturing property development and service delivery enhancements are anticipated to exceed \$3.9 million across the three-year period to 30 June 2029.</p> <p>As the EML fits within the judicial definition of a tax, no Regulatory Impact Analysis is required under the <i>Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy</i> as the proposal relates to taxation.</p> <p>Use of unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles by Queensland Fire and Rescue fire service officers</p> <p>Section 152B of the Fire Services Act provides for the use of unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles on roads in certain circumstances. Specifically, the section provides that an unregistered vehicle may be used on a road by a rural fire brigade or by a fire service officer assigned to Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) for carrying persons or equipment for the purpose of preventing, controlling or extinguishing a fire; or for the purpose of training relating to firefighting or fire prevention; or for another purpose, authorised in writing by the Commissioner.</p>

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	<p>Sections 152B(1)(b) and (c) further require that the vehicle is clearly identified as a vehicle of a rural fire brigade, and that a third-party personal injury insurance policy is in force for the vehicle.</p> <p>Section 152B(1)(a)(ii) allows a regulation to prescribe additional persons who can use unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles on roads and the purposes they can be used for.</p> <p>Fire service officers are employed under section 25 of the Fire Services Act (see also section 25A) and may be assigned by the Commissioner to RFSQ and/or to QFR.</p> <p>The Amendment Regulation amends the Fire Services Regulation to clarify that fire service officers assigned to QFR can also drive unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles on roads for a purpose mentioned in section 152B(1)(a)(i)(A), (B), or (C) of the Fire Services Act. During major operations or other significant fire events, when rural fire brigade resources are limited, QFR fire service officers may be required to assist the response by driving unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles. The proposed amendments will cater for circumstances such as these.</p> <p>The use of the vehicle will still need to meet the requirements of section 152B of the Fire Services Act, namely that the vehicle is clearly identified as a vehicle of a rural fire brigade, and that third-party personal injury insurance is in force for the vehicle.</p> <p>The exemption from registration in section 152B of the Fire Services Act only applies to unregistered rural fire brigade vehicles used on roads for certain purposes. As rural fire brigades and fire service offices are part of QFD, the proposal will only impact on the internal operations of the public sector or a statutory authority. The proposal will have no material impact on business or the community.</p> <p>Local Government payments to the State</p> <p>Section 152M of the Fire Services Act requires that each financial year local governments must determine the prescribed properties within their local government area and the levy amount payable by the owners of those properties. The local government is then responsible for issuing levy notices to property owners and collecting the levy from them, which is generally done as part of issuing rate notices (see sections 152O and 152P).</p> <p>Section 152S of the Fire Services Act requires local governments to make regular payments to the State of EML funds they have collected. The periods in relation to which those payments must be made are set out in section 16 of the Fire Services Regulation.</p> <p>The Amendment Regulation reduces the number of payments required to be made to the State each year by local governments. The amendments allow larger councils to remit EML contributions four times per year instead of five, and the remaining councils to remit the EML twice per year instead of three times.</p>

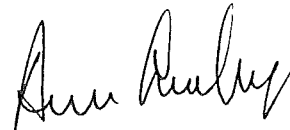
Proposal type	Details
	The proposed changes will lessen the administrative burden on local governments in their administration of the EML. QFD has assessed this proposal as deregulatory in nature as it will decrease regulatory burden.

Impact assessment

	First full year	First 10 years
Direct costs – Compliance costs	N/A	N/A
Direct costs – Government costs	N/A	N/A



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 Commissioner
 Queensland Fire Department
 Date: 4 / 06 / 2026



Ann Leahy MP
 Minister for Local Government and Water and
 Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
 Date: / / 2026
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