

Good afternoon all

I would like to provide an update on the strategies being undertaken to manage the challenges you're experiencing with the workload in the Building Safety Unit (BSU).

It's not only a resourcing issue - I'm advised that the outdated technology and legacy businesses processes we have to undertake our statutory obligations contribute to those challenges.

So there are a several ways we're looking at to help you with the valuable work you do in keeping our community and our firefighters safe.

First, as of Monday, a Station Officer will join the BSU for 6 months. Their work will be primarily to assess building evacuation plans, and to undertake practice evacuations where possible. We expect a second Station Officer will also join the unit in the coming weeks.

We are also working with the UFU to identify officers who may be able to assist us to work through practice evacuations, to ensure the workload doesn't stagnate at that stage of the process.

It's not enough to provide you with temporary extra resources, so our second strategy is to invest in identifying how we can improve systems and processes.

We recognise that resourcing issues, outdated systems and the demands of the building boom has created challenges for BSU. The State Fire Commission has approved a Request for Quotation process to seek a specialist who can examine what we do, how we do it, and what we need to assist in how we do business.

An external business analyst will undertake a project to help us identify where we can invest in updated systems and move to efficient processes to improve our service delivery within the community.

BSU undertakes a vital role in the Tasmanian community from performing statutory functions and regulating the fire protection industry to developing and implementing building fire safety related policy and business practices, and it is important that moving forward the work of the unit is aligned with community and industry needs.

The consultant will consider a number of aspects including;

- a review of current legislation that govern the work of the unit and legislation from other jurisdictions;
- assessment of the workload against the existing legislative requirements and standards;
- mapping current practices and process in delivering the statutory compliance functions;
- verifying the cost of undertaking the compliance obligations and services delivered by unit; and
- identify areas and opportunities for improvement including technology systems.

Consultation opportunities will be provided throughout the process to ensure your feedback and observations are captured.

This project will ensure we operate efficiently and in line with community needs and requirements, both now and into the future. Importantly, with the increase in complexity and volume of work in this area, it will assist in making sure you have the systems, processes and resources needed to do your job.

Further updates on the progress of the review will be provided however if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Stingel, Acting Executive Director, Capability and Strategy via email [Lisa.Stingel@dpfem.tas.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Stingel@dpfem.tas.gov.au).

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rhiannon Garth who has undertaken the Director, Community Fire Safety role over the past 18 months. We thank Rhiannon for her valuable contribution to TFS and wish her all the best on her return to DPFEM. A recruitment process for this role is underway and an update will be provided in due course.

Regards

**Dermot Barry ESM**  
**Chief Officer**