

# Supporting our Emergency Volunteers



## A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Provide a \$2 million fund for volunteer TFS and SES units to apply for equipment and station upgrades.
- Develop increased RATS capacity among TFS volunteers
- Improve safety for emergency workers on roadsides.



## Keeping Tasmania Safe

### \$2 million equipment upgrade fund

Our Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) and State Emergency Service volunteer Units are generally well fitted out, but there is always a backlog of new equipment or fittings, whether operational or at the Station.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide the State Fire Commission with a \$2 million fund for the next term of Government to allow all Volunteers Units to apply for upgrades to this equipment.

The Volunteer Associations, with the TFS, will determine what equipment will be purchased with these funds. It could include items such as pumps, floodlights or equipment to improve the amenity of volunteer stations.

### Remote Area Teams to include Volunteers

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will develop, sustain and grow Remote Area Teams (RATs) capacity from suitable volunteer fire fighters around the State.

Selected volunteers will undergo helicopter insertion training and fire fighting skills in this specialised field. The training will be undertaken by the TFS and will fill the identified need for more firefighters with these skills.

This will provide an exciting career path for those volunteers with good physical fitness levels.

### Keeping our Emergency Service workers safe on the roads

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will amend road laws in Tasmania to make it an offence to travel past an Emergency Service vehicle parked on the roadside with lights flashing, at speeds higher than 40km/h.

In recent discussions with our Emergency Service Associations the need to improve the safety of our emergency services personnel in these situations has been highlighted. Similar laws are now in operation in other States.

We will refer this matter to the Road Safety Advisory Council for detail on implementation.

## Targets

**#35:** A 33% decrease in the risk to Tasmanian lives and properties from bushfire by 2022.

## Why Tasmania Needs This

The Hodgman Liberal Government and the community value the contribution of volunteers and we will provide updated equipment, more opportunities through an increase in the number of RATs, and improve their safety while at work.