



Queensland

Community Safety (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012

Explanatory Notes for SL 2012 No. 91

made under the

Ambulance Service Act 1991

Building Act 1975

Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990

General outline

Short title

Community Safety (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012.

Authorising law

Section 54 of the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*

Section 261 of the *Building Act 1975*

Sections 106, 108 and 154 of the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

To provide an appropriate level of funding for emergency services through increases in the fees, charges and levies related to fire and ambulance services and ensuring that the levies applicable to certain areas of the State are consistent with the service delivery provided in that area.

Achievement of policy objectives

The objectives are achieved by increasing fees, charges and levies for 2012-2013 under the *Ambulance Service Regulation 2003*, the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008* and the *Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2011* by 3.5%, in accordance with Government policy.

In addition, provisions in the *Ambulance Service Regulation 2003* are removed, where fees are no longer applicable as the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) does not provide air ambulance services.

Further, fire levy classes for urban districts are amended in the *Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2011* for two areas of the State (Home Hill and Dulacca) and the date of the urban district map is updated to 2012.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment regulation is consistent with the main objectives of the *Ambulance Service Act 1991* to ensure that the QAS is able to provide, operate and maintain ambulance services and perform other functions required under the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*.

The amendment regulation also aligns with the objectives of the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* to ensure the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) is able to, amongst other things, protect persons, property and the environment from fire and hazardous materials emergencies.

Relevant fees, charges and levies in the *Ambulance Service Regulation 2003*, the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008* and the *Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2011* have been increased by 3.5% in accordance with Government policy.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Implementation of the proposed amendments will enable the QAS and QFRS to charge fees to allow for quality service provision to the community. No implementation costs are anticipated.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendment regulation has been drafted with regard to fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

The imposition of levies may be seen as an imposition on the rights and liberties of individuals. However, it is considered that the imposition of such levies is justified to ensure that emergency services can continue to provide quality front line services which contribute to the protection and safety of the community.

Consultation

Consultation regarding the amendments has been undertaken with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury and Trade.

No issues regarding the regulation were raised.

In regard to the amendment of the fire levy classes of urban districts, the affected community of Dulacca has been consulted regarding engagement of auxiliary officers. Consultation has not been undertaken with the community of Home Hill as the fire levy is being reduced and there will be no effective change to service delivery.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Community Safety.