



Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

File No: QFS/15524
Ref No: 03217-2019
Your Ref: A481073

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *NEIL,*

Thank you for your letter dated 22 August 2019 about petitions No. 3181-19 and 3160-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Queensland Emergency Management Levy (EML) provides a substantial contribution towards funding for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to provide a wide range of vital emergency and disaster management services across Queensland. QFES services that benefit from the EML are provided by staff and volunteers to help Queenslanders before, during and after emergency and disaster events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 (the Act) requires the owners of prescribed properties in Queensland to contribute to the provision of emergency services by means of a levy collected via local government rates notices.

In the case of multiple lots, the Act does not provide an exemption to the EML where a person owns multiple lots, other than for bona-fide farm land, owned by the same owner, which attracts a single levy.

There have been no recent changes to the EML. Local government must assess the properties within its area and apply the appropriate levy to each separately titled property (lot).

The assessment is based on the use of the property and the area of the property or part of the property.

Each property is categorised into one of the 16 levy groups outlined in the Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011 (Regulation) and the 16 levy groups can be described as follows:

- Group 1 – Vacant land
- Group 2 – Residential dwellings/units and
- Group 3-16 – Commercial/Industrial and mining properties.

EML audits are conducted on council's levy files, which requires council to review the classifications of each property. Councils adjust any records that are not in accordance with the Act or Regulation. Any adjustments detrimental to the property owner will not be back dated to previous financial years.

The Act does not provide any ability to amend, waive or make any changes to either the statutory levy class or the statutory levy category. It is a binding formula created by law and local authorities and QFES are bound by the law.

I trust this information is helpful to you. Should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please contact Mr Peter Clarke, Chief of Staff on telephone (07) 3008 3700.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Crawford', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

18/19/2019