

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following our recent correspondence to the Australian Taxation Office, we wish to register our support for the proposed legislation "Exposure Draft - Extending Gift Deductibility to Volunteer Fire Brigades".

The wording and content of the proposed legislation is appropriate to our Brigade, and will ensure that the funding base for NSW Rural Fire Brigades, being donations by rural landholders, can continue. We have discussed the proposed legislation with Treasury and ATO staff, and feel that it is essentially what we have requested in our earlier correspondence.

The NSW Rural Fire Service issued guidelines for brigade accounting around 2005 which outlined how brigades are to maintain separate accounts for brigade-related funds, and while many brigades will not have read these guidelines, I am sure that they can be reissued to inform brigades of how they can manage their funds to meet the DGR requirements. In our situation, we do not use any of our brigade funds for social activities, so we feel confident that our existing account, along with the normal practise of having our accounts audited annually, will be satisfactory.

We thank you for your communication to our brigade, and hope that the legislation will be passed soon to finalise this matter.

Regards

Natalie Bennett
Secretary
Euchareena Bush Fire Brigade
(02) 6840 1728 - Work
0407 245 495 - AH