

20 February 2026

Mr Christopher Barrett
Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
1 Treasury Place
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Via email: information@dtf.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Barrett

I am writing regarding the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) to which Knox City Council ratepayers will contribute approximately \$34 million in the 2025/26 financial year.

Council is seeking transparency and confirmation on how the funds collected from Knox ratepayers will be distributed and allocated. In particular, Council would like to understand how the funding is used and the amount that is distributed to emergency services organisations operating within the City of Knox for the benefit of the Knox community.

I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me on 9298 8200.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer

Document ID: D26-56305

20 February 2026

Ms Jenni Rigby
Chief Executive
Emergency Management Victoria
121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via email: admin@emv.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Rigby

I am writing regarding the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) to which Knox City Council ratepayers will contribute approximately \$34 million in the 2025/26 financial year.

Council is seeking transparency and confirmation on how the funds collected from Knox ratepayers will be distributed and allocated. In particular, Council would like to understand how the funding is used and the amount that is distributed to emergency services organisations operating within the City of Knox for the benefit of the Knox community.

I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me on 9298 8200.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer

Document ID: D26-56302

20 February 2026

Mr Paul Broderick
CEO and Commissioner of State Revenue
State Revenue Office
GPO Box 1641
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Via Email: paulbroderick@sro.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Broderick

I am writing regarding the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) to which Knox City Council ratepayers will contribute approximately \$34 million in the 2025/26 financial year.

Council is seeking transparency and confirmation on how the funds collected from Knox ratepayers will be distributed and allocated. In particular, Council would like to understand how the funding is used and the amount that is distributed to emergency services organisations operating within the City of Knox for the benefit of the Knox community.

I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me on 9298 8200.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer

Document ID: D26-56301



Treasurer of Victoria

Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Regional Development

1 Treasury Place
GPO Box 4379
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 7005 9474

CMIN-260200492

Mr Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer
Knox City Council
511 Burwood Highway
WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152

knoxcc@knox.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Dobson

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 February 2026 to the Commissioner of State Revenue, Mr Paul Broderick, regarding the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). As the ESVF falls within my portfolio responsibilities, your correspondence has been referred to me.

From 1 July 2025, the ESVF replaced the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) and includes broader emergency and disaster response services, in line with other Australian jurisdictions.

Every dollar raised through the ESVF goes towards vital life-saving equipment, vehicles, staff, training for volunteers, community education, and recovery support. Our emergency services allocate resources to where they are needed most, to meet the needs of all Victorian communities. When a community is severely impacted by a natural disaster or other emergency incident, disaster and recovery assistance generally outstrips any contributions made.

The ESVF funding provided to Victoria's emergency services is published in the Government Gazette. The funding for 2025-26 is available at:

<https://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2025/GG2025S269.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Jaclyn Symes MP

Treasurer

11/3/2026



Emergency Management Victoria

Chief Executive

Level 23
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
emv.vic.gov.au

Our ref: 26025758

Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer
Knox City Council
511 Burwood Highway
WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152

BY EMAIL: bruce.dobson@knox.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Dobson

Re: Distribution of funds raised by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 2026 regarding distribution of funds raised by the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF).

The ESVF provides dedicated funding to support Victoria's emergency services, including Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Triple Zero Victoria (TZV), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic).

The increasing frequency of fires, floods and storms continues to be a reality of life in Victoria. The ESVF ensures all our emergency services have the tools and resources they need to help keep Victorians safe. Importantly, the ESVF provides increased funding certainty for a wider range of emergency service organisations, including supporting the critical work of VICSES.

Every dollar raised goes towards vital life-saving equipment, vehicles, staff, training for volunteers, community education, and recovery support to help Victorians when they need it most. The ESVF is used to fund 90 per cent of FRV's budget, and 95 per cent of the CFA's and the VICSES' budgets. In addition, the ESVF funds up to 95 per cent of the annual budgets of TZV, EMV, ERV and FFMVic.

In recognition of the significant contributions made by volunteers who serve with the CFA, VICSES and Shepparton Search and Rescue (SSAR), eligible active volunteers and life members can seek a rebate in relation to the ESVF on their primary place of residence or farm. Further information about the volunteer rebate is available on the Service Victoria website at <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/eligible-volunteers-rebate-scheme/guideline>.



In relation to questions regarding how the funding is used and the amount that is distributed to emergency services organisations, ESVF legislation requires the Treasurer, in the Gazetted notice of determination in respect of each levy year, to specify an estimate of:

- the amount in dollars of the funding requirements of the funding recipient that are to be funded by the levy in that levy year; and
- the percentage of the overall funding requirements of the funding recipient that levy will supply.

The Treasurer must also include an estimate of the amount of levy to be collected in that levy year for each land use classification. The most recent Gazette Notice outlining the determination of levy rates and funding details for 2025-26 can be accessed at:

www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2025/GG2025s269.pdf

Further questions regarding the ESVF should be directed to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), which can be contacted at esvf@dtf.vic.gov.au.

I trust this information has been of assistance to you. Thank you again for taking the time to write to me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Rigby

Chief Executive, Emergency Management Victoria

13/03/2026