

## The Hon Jihad Dib MP

Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Youth Justice



Ref: MINS-287005395-1272

A5841041

Cr Darriea Turley AM  
President  
Local Government NSW  
L8, 28 Margaret Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Update on emergency services expenditure

Dear Ms Turley, *Darriea,*

Thank you for your correspondence regarding an update on the review of emergency services expenditure on behalf of the local government sector. The Treasurer has asked me to respond in my capacity as Minister for Emergency Services.

I note the concerns you raise about council contributions to emergency services in 2023-24. As we have discussed, the former government set the subsidy provided in previous years to expire from 2023-24. Tough budgetary decisions are being taken across government to ensure the State's financial sustainability and provide priority services and infrastructure to communities across NSW.

The NSW Government recognises that councils are facing increased cost pressures and is focused on ensuring the sustainability of the local government sector. We have committed to implementing a review of financial modelling for councils, with a lens on the increasing cost burden on residents, and we remain committed to that promise. You will also be aware that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has reviewed how it calculates the local government rate peg and the Minister for Local Government is currently considering the recommendations of their final report.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that emergency services are delivered efficiently and within budget to minimise the financial impact on councils and households in the years ahead. A Comprehensive Expenditure Review is underway to identify budget savings and reforms to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of services to NSW communities.

Should you require further information, please contact Sam Toohey, Executive Director Emergency Services Coordination, Premier's Department, at [sam.toohey@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sam.toohey@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au) or 0400 325 809.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to my attention.

Sincerely

Jihad Dib MP  
Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Youth Justice

*26/09/2023*