



# Emergency Management Levy

## Frequently Asked Questions (compiled from questions asked by Rate Payers)

### 1. What is the Emergency Management Levy?

On 01 July 2013, the Urban Levy was reformed to the Emergency Management Levy (EML) and applies to all properties within Queensland from 01 January 2014, to ensure a more sustainable funding base for emergency services.

### 2. Why was the levy extended/reformed?

The levy was extended to include Emergency Management, recognising that all Queenslanders are at risk from a wide range of emergencies including floods, cyclones, storms as well as fire and accidents.

### 3. Who will pay the EML?

With a few exceptions, every property in Queensland will attract the levy. The owner of the property will be charged the levy.

### 4. How is the levy charged?

The EML had two components that commenced on 01 January 2014.

- The levy on properties in the existing urban fire levy boundaries will be increased by 6.5%.
- The establishment of the new E Class levy category which applies to all properties outside the existing urban fire levy boundaries.

The levy is a State Government levy that is collected via your council rates notice.

### 5. Are there any properties exempt from the EML?

The following categories will be exempt from the EML if the property is within the **E Class Levy District**:

- cemetery;
- club that is not a licensed premises;
- church, church hall or community hall;
- community protection centre;
- library, museum, art gallery or zoo;
- tourist attraction (less than 4050m<sup>2</sup>);
- airfields; and
- showground or racecourse.

The exemptions applied from 1 January 2014. Properties **within the E Class** district that were categorised and levied as any of the above categories will be reimbursed from 01 January 2014.

Councils may either process the refunds directly to owners of those properties or ask QFES to make the refund payments to the property owners affected.

For further information about the exemptions in the E Class Levy District, please contact Levy Management Command on (07) 3635 3041 or email [QFRS\\_RevCom@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:QFRS_RevCom@dcs.qld.gov.au)

### 5. Will the levy apply to each lot or each rates notice?

The levy applies to each individual lot except where lots are used as bona-fide primary producing land (refer to Question 6). More than one levy may appear on a rates notice that is for multiple lots.

#### 6. How will the EMFRL apply to properties used as bona-fide primary producing land?

*If a parcel of farming land shares a boundary with one or more other parcels of farming land (each a contiguous parcel), and each of the contiguous parcels are owned by the same owner, then one levy will apply on the contiguous parcels.*

#### 7. Why am I paying the EML when there is no urban fire service in my area?

*It's important to note that the purpose of the levy is to support and sustain **all** emergency management, fire and rescue services – our professional services and our volunteer services.*

*Even before the recent changes, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have been responding not only to fire but to motor vehicle entrapments, flooding and rescuing people from fast flowing water, search and rescue of people lost in the bush or the outback. All of these can occur in any corner of our vast state of Queensland.*

#### 8. Does the EML replace the rural fire levy?

*No, while Rural Fire Brigades do not receive direct funding from the EMFRL, the Government has retained the provision for local councils at their discretion to continue to raise a rural fire levy to fund the operational costs for brigades and ensure the ongoing support to Rural Fire Brigades.*

*The State Government continues to support emergency service volunteers by providing personal protective clothing; communications equipment; co-funded and fully funded fire fighting equipment; fully funded appliances; station construction grants; training; insurance, and other assistance.*

*On an annual basis the Government provides more than \$50m per annum to Rural Fire Services and the State Emergency Service.*

#### 9. How is the EML determined?

*The levy is assessed by the relevant officer in your local government. The assessment is based on the use and in some cases, the area of the property. There are 16 levy groups that can be described as follows:*

- *Group 1: Vacant Land*
- *Group 2: Residential dwellings/units/outbuildings (sheds)*
- *Group 3-16: Industrial/Commercial properties.*

#### 10. How much will I pay?

*Refer to **Schedule 2** of the Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2011 for the **annual** amount.*

#### 11. Where can I find the Legislation and Regulation?

*The Fire and Emergency Service Act 1990 can be accessed at <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/F/FireARescSeA90.pdf>*

*The Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2011 can be accessed at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/F/FireRescueR11.pdf>*

#### 12. Do Pensioners get a discount?

*A 20% discount of the levy is granted for a person in receipt of a pension under any law of the Commonwealth or of the State declared that is an owner of a prescribed property and is their principle place of residence. Contact your local council for more information.*

#### 13. Where can I find further information about the EML?

*Please contact Levy Management Command regarding any further questions on (07) 3635 3041 or email [QFRS\\_RevCom@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:QFRS_RevCom@dcs.qld.gov.au)*