

Key Advocacy Priority:

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)



Pyrenees
Shire Council

THE PRIORITY

The ESVF replaced the Fire Property Services Levy in 2025 and has increased costs significantly for rural landowners.

THE ASK

Abolish the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy or, at an absolute minimum, ensure Councils are not responsible for its collection.

THE BENEFITS

- Reduces financial burden on rural landowners
- Provides fairer funding arrangements for emergency services

"Our community is facing economic challenges including drought conditions, increased input costs for agriculture, and ongoing flood and fire recovery. The ESVF tax will worsen financial pressures, reduce local spending and compound economic stress in our largely rural area."

2024-25 Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Tanya Kehoe

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) was a new Victorian Government levy (replacing the Fire Services Property Levy) that was introduced on 1 July 2025 and is aimed at supporting more of the state's emergency services.

The ESVF is collected by Council on behalf of the Victorian Government.

However, there is strong opposition to the ESVF in the Pyrenees Shire community, and Council has incurred an extra administrative burden in collecting the levy on behalf of the government.

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