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## 1. Statement

Council is committed to promoting a resilient community that can prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of disaster. This includes the long-standing convention to provide support to the Queensland State Emergency Service, Ipswich City Unit to assist Council meet its obligation to have a response capability under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

## 2. Purpose and Principles

The Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) is a community-based, volunteer emergency service supported by both the State Government, through the Queensland Police Service (QPS), and local government. The SES plays a vital part in Queensland's disaster management system helping communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster along with providing assistance to other emergency services. A sustainable and skilled volunteer workforce is essential to meet the increasing demand for support as a result of more frequent and severe events and disasters, as well as the changing needs and expectation of the community itself.

Council acknowledges and is committed to:

- **Collaboration:** a collaborative approach to the shared administration of the SES
- **Cooperative partnership:** an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and obligations
- **Service delivery:** a contemporary volunteer emergency service that strengths community capability
- **Value for money:** the cost effective use of resource developed to the management and support of the SES
- **Accountability:** integrated and informed regulatory and decision making processes
- **Efficiency:** Avoid duplication and inefficiencies
- **Transparency:** information sharing in the context of their agreed roles in relation to the SES

### 3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable
- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

### 4. Regulatory Authority

Local Government Act 2009  
 Local Government Regulation 2014  
 State Emergency Service Act 2024  
 Disaster Management Act 2003  
 Disaster Management Regulation 2014

### 5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

### 6. Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, council staff, contractors, and others that act on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles and in accordance with the relevant legislation.

### 7. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Ensure compliance with this policy by councillors and employees. Develop, negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding with the State of Queensland to operationalise this policy.
<b>Disaster and Natural Hazards Manager</b>	Coordinate and arrange support to the Ipswich City SES Unit in accordance with this policy and any related procedures and memorandum of understandings.
<b>SES Local Controller</b>	Advocate and provide information to Council regarding the needs, risks and requirements for support in a manner that addresses the principles in this policy.

### 8. Key Stakeholders

The following will be consulted during the review process:

- SES Local Controller, Ipswich City Unit

### 9. Support to the State Emergency Service, Ipswich City Unit

Ipswich City Council provides the following commitments to Ipswich City SES unit. Council will:

- Provide facilities that are safe and secure;

- Provide fleet and operational equipment that is compliant, safe, secure and fit for purpose;
- Provide access to information and communication technology;
- Provide support to the Local Controller to undertake their role, including the payment of an annual honorarium;
- Provide support for community education, capability development and operational costs; and
- Any other support that is reasonable, proportionate and aligns to the functions of the SES.

The financial value of the support will be defined through Council's annual operational budget and capital program. These programs aim to balance the application of finite resources across the City and across a broad spectrum of service delivery.

#### 10. Memorandum of Understanding

Council is committed to good governance and will provide this support to the Ipswich City SES Unit in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Queensland.

This Memorandum of Understanding is to be developed, negotiated and executed by the Chief Executive Officer and made available to the SES Local Controller.

#### 11. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed at least every four years.

#### 12. Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Disaster response capability</b>	<p>Disaster response capability, for a local government, means the ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area.</p> <p><i>Source: Disaster Management Act 2003, s80(2)</i></p>
<b>SES Local Controller</b>	<p>An individual appointed by the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service in accordance with the State Emergency Service Act 2024 to maintain the operational effectiveness of an SES Unit by ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the SES members in the unit have the necessary skills to perform their roles in the unit competently; and</li> <li>(b) the unit's equipment is maintained in an appropriate condition; and</li> <li>(c) the unit performs its functions and other activities in a way that is consistent with departmental policies about the performance of an SES unit's functions and other activities; and</li> <li>(d) the unit performs its functions in compliance with— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the State Emergency Services Act 2024 and any other applicable Act or law; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Term	Definition
	<p>(ii) any operational permits and approvals applying to an SES unit; and</p> <p>(e) the SES members in the unit comply with any direction given by the commissioner, the SES chief officer or an SES commander.</p> <p><i>Source: State Emergency Service Act 2024, s25(1)</i></p>
<b>SES functions</b>	<p>The functions of the SES are:</p> <p>(a) to perform rescue or similar operations in an emergency situation, including—</p> <p>(i) helping injured persons; and</p> <p>(ii) protecting persons, property or the environment from danger or potential danger associated with the situation; and</p> <p>(b) to perform search operations in an emergency or similar situation; and</p> <p>(c) to perform activities in response to a severe weather event; and</p> <p>(d) to perform other activities to help communities or other entities prepare for, respond to, recover from and enhance resilience to, an event or a disaster; and</p> <p>(e) to perform activities to raise the profile of the SES or raise funds to support the SES in the performance of its other functions; and</p> <p>(f) to provide services, and give help reasonably requested, in an emergency or another situation, as required of a member of the SES under any Act or law or the reasonable expectations of the community; and</p> <p>(g) to perform any other functions given to the SES under this Act or another Act.</p> <p><i>Source: State Emergency Service Act 2024, s7(1)</i></p>
<b>SES Unit</b>	<p>SES Units (a grouping of SES members and resources) are established by the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service under s23(1) of the State Emergency Service Act 2024 for the purpose of performing the functions of the SES within a geographical boundary based on local government areas.</p>

### 13. Related Documents

- Local Disaster Management Plan
- Disaster Management Act 2003 Delegation
- Disaster Management Act 2003 Sub-Delegation

### 14. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Environment and Sustainability) is the policy owner and the Disaster and Natural Hazards Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.