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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 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), 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
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
Chief Executive Officer	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.
Emergency Management and Sustainability Manager	Coordinate and arrange support to the Ipswich City SES Unit in accordance with this policy and any memorandum of understandings.
SES Local Controller	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 facilitates 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;
- 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 SES Local Controller.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years.

12. Definitions

Term	Definition
Disaster response capability	<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</i></p>
SES Local Controller	<p>An individual appointed by the Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services in accordance with the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to maintain the operational effectiveness of an SES Unit by ensuring, in compliance with section 155 of the Act, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the unit’s members have the necessary skills to competently perform their roles within the unit; and • the unit’s equipment is maintained in an appropriate condition; and • the unit performs its functions and other activities in a way that is consistent with departmental or local government policies about the performance of the functions and activities.

SES functions	<p>The functions of the SES are—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to perform rescue or similar operations in an emergency situation b) to perform search operations in an emergency or similar situation <i>Examples of search operations in situations similar to an emergency situation—</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a search for a lost bush walker ii. a search to find a weapon used in the commission of an alleged offence c) to perform other operations in an emergency situation to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. help injured persons; or ii. protect persons or property from danger or potential danger associated with the situation; and d) to perform other activities to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or a disaster; and 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. <p><i>Section 130, Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990</i></p>
SES Unit	<p>A grouping of SES members and resources for purposes of performing the functions of SES within a geographical boundary, which is based on local government area.</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 (Infrastructure and Environment) is the policy owner and the Emergency Management and Sustainability Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.