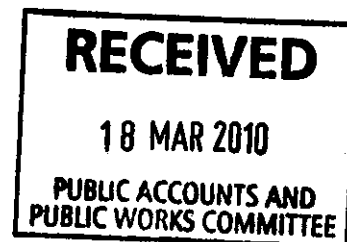




**HINCHINBROOK
SHIRE COUNCIL**



Our Ref: RWC:BKE
J:\LETTERS\Public Accounts & Public Works Committee.DOC
Enquiries: Mr. Robert Clark.

16th March, 2010.

The Research Director,
Public Accounts and Public Works Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4000.

Dear Sir / Madam,

**QUEENSLAND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MANAGEMENT OF RURAL FIRE SERVICES IN QUEENSLAND**

I refer to your letter of the 10th March, 2010 inviting submissions to your Committee's Enquiry into Management of Rural Fire Services in Queensland. Council has considered the review proposal and wishes to make the following comments:-

- a) Council supports the existing role of Rural Fire Brigades and believes that they play a very cost effective community involved part in ensuring that our rural areas are protected from bushfires and wildfires.
- b) Council currently levy's three (3) special charges of \$20 / annum for 2 brigades, and \$25 / annum for a third brigade and believes that this is an appropriate funding mechanism. Rural ratepayers appear to readily accept that such special charges benefit them directly, and consequently our view is that this funding method is preferable to Council providing funding from the general rate revenue.
- c) Council has recently implemented a local area (flood) warden system for the various urban and rural localities throughout the Shire, and in most of these localities, 10 of these wardens were fire wardens for that area. Local area (flood) wardens are an important liaison contact point for Council and the Local Disaster Management Group during emergency situations. Being part of the Rural Fire Brigade network means that they have good communication networks and equipment that can be used when normal communication means e.g. telephones are disrupted.

I trust that the above information conveys Council's view that Rural Fire Brigades play an important role in our community. While it is good to review services from time to time, it is important that their fundamentals of community self help and support are not eroded by structures or other decisions that deter people from being involved.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. Clark,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

25 Lannercost St PO BOX 366
Ingham QLD 4850 Ingham QLD 4850

Telephone (07) 4776 4600
Facsimile (07) 4776 3233

Email ceo@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au
Web www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

