



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Heartfelt Thank You

While the independent report into the January 2013 fires in Tasmania highlighted some areas of concern and the need for improvement in the future, the Local Government Association of Tasmania, on behalf of its members and the communities they represent, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tasmanian Fire Service and the multitude of volunteers who assisted in averting what could have been an even greater tragedy.

LGAT President, Mayor Barry Easter said in the mopping up of these scenarios, there are generally few winners. "With the value of hindsight, we all learn of shortcomings and matters that could have been handled differently," Mayor Easter said.

"It is important in reviewing these events that we take on board the lessons to be learnt and ensure that we change or improve whatever practices or procedures are necessary."

"What needs to be remembered is that the severity and speed of this particular episode, and the unique geographic challenges placed extreme pressure and extraordinary responsibilities on those fighting the fire on the ground."

"Communications, coordination, delegation, issues relating to fuel reduction and where and how dwellings are built are all matters that should be reviewed following such a significant event," Mayor Easter said.

"The Association looks forward to working with the State Government and emergency services organisations in ensuring that whatever needs to be done to minimise future threats is taken on board."

"The councils involved in the January tragedy have their own tales to tell and experiences to review, but are grateful for the assistance provided during the fires, particularly in the process of recovery after the event."

"There is still rebuilding to be done but there is the comfort that such a tragedy resulted in no loss of life," he said.

**For media enquiries, please contact
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