



Changes to the emergency services levy

May 2019

When you renew or purchase household or business insurance this year, you may notice an increase in the emergency services levy (ESL), which funds the vital work of Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.

Late last year laws were passed to improve protections for firefighters who are diagnosed with work-related cancers. The new laws make it easier for firefighters to make a workers compensation claim if they are diagnosed with one of 12 work-related cancers and have been employed in the above organisation between five and 25 years.

The changes are about helping our firefighters in their hour of need, and they bring NSW into line with the laws of most other Australian jurisdictions.

It's expected that significantly more firefighters diagnosed with work-related cancers will now be eligible for workers compensation benefits, including loss of income payments, medical treatment expenses and death benefit for those with terminal conditions.

At the same time, work is underway to reduce the incidence of work-related injuries and cancer incurred by firefighters including on-going review of research and preventative initiatives and investing in vital firefighting equipment.

The expansion of workers compensation benefits will be funded through ESL contributions from insurers, councils and the NSW Government.

The NSW Government understands the cost of living pressures that NSW households are facing, which is why we have taken action to help families with initiatives like Active and Creative Kids, the Toll Relief program, expanded energy, water and gas rebates and CTP reforms to drive down the cost of Green Slips. service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/cost-living.