

[Act 1998 No 18]



New South Wales

Fire Services Joint Standing Committee Bill 1998

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.*
The *Fire Services Legislation Amendment Bill 1998* is cognate with this Bill.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to establish a committee, having equal representation from New South Wales Fire Brigades and the NSW Rural Fire Service, to be known as the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee. The Committee will have the following functions:

- (a) to develop and submit to the Minister strategic plans for the delivery of comprehensive, balanced and co-ordinated urban and rural fire services at the interface of fire district boundaries and rural fire district boundaries,
- (b) to review periodically the boundaries of fire districts and rural fire districts and, if it considers it appropriate, to make recommendations to the Minister concerning those boundaries,

* Amended in committee—see table at end of volume.

- (c) to develop and submit to the Minister implementation strategies to minimise duplication and maximise compatibility between the services of New South Wales Fire Brigades and the services of the NSW Rural Fire Service, with particular reference to the following areas:
 - (i) infrastructure planning,
 - (ii) training activities,
 - (iii) community education programs,
 - (iv) equipment design,
- (d) to report to the Minister on any matter referred to the Committee by the Minister and, if it considers it appropriate, to make recommendations to the Minister concerning that matter,
- (e) such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Committee by the proposed Act or any other Act.

Outline of provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 defines certain terms for the purposes of the proposed Act.

Part 2 Fire Services Joint Standing Committee

Clause 4 establishes the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee. The membership of the Committee includes the Commissioner of New South Wales Fire Brigades and the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Clause 5 sets out the functions of the Committee (as referred to in the above overview).

Clause 6 provides that the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee are to be rotated between the Commissioner of New South Wales Fire Brigades and the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Part 3 Miscellaneous

Clause 7 is a general regulation-making power.

Clause 8 provides for the review of the proposed Act after the period of 5 years from the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 contains provisions relating to the members and procedure of the Committee.