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Green Paper highlights fire services funding issues

The Insurance Council of Australia has welcomed the release today of the Victorian Government's Green Paper, *Fire Services and the Non-Insured*, as a timely consideration of the key issues surrounding fire services funding in Victoria.

The paper identifies the need for further discussion between key stakeholders of the alternative fire services funding models, as well as the serious issues of under- and non-insurance that surfaced following the Victorian bushfires in February 2009.

The Insurance Council has over past years made several submissions highlighting the inequities and inefficiencies in the current Victorian fire services funding system, many of which have been identified in the Green Paper. These submissions include:

- A submission to the Victorian Parliament's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry in State Government Taxation and Debt
- Two submissions to the Review of Australia's Tax System (the Henry Review)
- Two submissions to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) review into state taxation.

The Insurance Council will closely review the legal and legislative framework that the Government is introducing to accompany the Green Paper process. In particular, the Insurance Council will consider in detail the legislative and compliance package needed to support the Green Paper pilot study into non-insurance as this directly impacts the privacy of policy holder information.

The Insurance Council continues to work closely with state and federal governments to address the issue of fire services funding reform.

**Full submissions are available on the Insurance Council website.*

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