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Kia ora koutou

Yesterday the Minister of Finance released Budget 2024 and I am sure some of you will have noticed that there is a \$2 million reduction in the funding Fire and Emergency New Zealand receives through our monitoring agency, the Department of Internal Affairs.

All government agencies are expected to play their part in reducing cost pressures on New Zealand and we are no different. We will absorb this reduction in our funding as we continue to prioritise our spending.

I am acutely aware of our responsibility to use our funding, whether provided through insured parties or by taxpayers, carefully and prudently and welcome the scrutiny.

In 2023, and before the Government cost savings initiatives were introduced, the Fire and Emergency Board established the Financial Sustainability and Investment Committee. This committee serves as a governing body to oversee the financial viability of the organisation. It acts as an additional safeguard, ensuring that we manage our expenditures and cost pressures effectively and promoting efficient resource allocation.

As an organisation we remain committed to an ongoing process of scrutinising our funding sources to identify where we can optimise. This allows us to reallocate resources proactively and align our priorities with evolving needs.

This Budget decision is a clear reminder that as an organisation we are not immune to ensuring we are operating as efficiently as any government entity.

Ngā mihi

Kerry Gregory (he/him)

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