As a resident of Campaspe Shire, I would like to protest the imposition of the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy on taxpayers already burdened by increasing financial restraints.

While I fully support measures that enhance the capacity of emergency services volunteers and agencies to protect communities, this tax increase raises significant concerns for this community.

This new tax will be a sizeable increase over the existing Fire Services Levy and will particularly affect our farming community when they can least afford it.

In Campaspe Shire, the primary production variable rate for the new ESVF will rise from 28.7 cents per $1000 CIV to 83 cents which is a massive hike during a cost-of-living crisis.

Our community is facing economic challenges including ongoing flood recovery, increased input costs for agriculture, and the prospect of mandatory federal government water buy-backs. The ESVF tax will worsen financial pressures, reduce local spending and compound economic stress in our largely rural area.

I believe this additional cost will disproportionately affect our community, where rising rates and cost-of-living pressures are heavily impacting residents, farmers and businesses.

I urge you to reconsider this extra financial impost on all taxpayers, but particularly farmers, during these difficult economic times.