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### **Re-establishing ESA as statutory authority will cost \$2m: Govt. 16/03/2007. ABC News Online**

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## **Re-establishing ESA as statutory authority will cost \$2m: Govt**

The ACT Government says a Liberal party pledge to re-establish the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) as a statutory authority will cost more than \$2 million.

The ACT Liberals announced today they would reinstate the ESA as a statutory authority if they win government at next year's election.

Emergency Services Minister Simon Corbell says that will come at a cost.

He says the taxpayers' bill will be \$2.1 million.

"It means that money will be taken away from other functions of the ESA to pay for this," he said.

The Opposition's emergency services spokesman, Steve Pratt, maintains the policy will come at no additional cost.

"What we would do is transfer positions from the Department of Justice, we are not seeking to create any new positions," he said.

The policy announcement comes a day after disgruntled volunteer brigade captains resigned their positions in protest over the ESA's restructure.

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