



Media Release

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – QLD FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 January 2015

Ex-cop – New Fire Service Commissioner – shoots first and asks questions later

With just one week into the job new fire chief - ex police officer Katarina Carroll has wasted no time in getting off side with firefighters.

The union leader John Oliver was commenting on statements by Commissioner Carroll in TV interviews broadcast on Monday night.

Mr Oliver, UFUQ State Secretary stated:

"She shoots first and asks questions later.

"Firies just get on with their job. They don't self-promote themselves in the media like our new commissioner. Ms Carroll hasn't wasted any time dressing up in a fire service uniform and posing for the TV.

If self-promotion, media spin and rumour mongering is the new culture she wants to promote, she won't get many takers from firies.

Our members are incensed that an experienced police officer would pass on exaggeration and rumour about firies in the media without properly checking sources and evidence. Isolated incidents don't make a toxic culture!

Her comments about having gone through the Fitzgerald Inquiry with the police force were just absurd. How dare she suggest that there are issues in the fire service which in any way resemble the issues identified 25 years ago in the Qld police force!?

As far as we know the whole beat up arises from the misconduct of one single firie. Now we have our supposed new leader joining in on a flawed report.

The role of Fire and Rescue Commissioner is a very serious role and should be above politics.

I have spoken to Acting Commissioner Carroll regarding her statements and the ridiculous attempt to paint a picture of all QLD firefighters being sexist and promoting a toxic culture. We have our first meeting this week.

After all it has only been a week since she has taken over a 500 Million Dollar organisation. One would think before making such broad statements, you would have regard for the other 99% of men and women of the fire service that are not involved and have not been interviewed.

To attack firefighters and erode the trust that they have earned in the community is irresponsible and ultimately suspicious.

For Further Media Information Contact:

John Oliver
Secretary
United Firefighters Union - QLD
PH: 07 3844 0366
MOBILE: 0403 047 071
Email: johnoliver@ufuq.com.au