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Personal Floatation Device (level 1)

Decision

On the 6th of March 2012 the UFU appeared before Deputy President Bloomfield of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC), to highlight concerns raised by the Cairns Branch over the current level 1 PFD's. One of the main safety concerns raised was that the device was not suitable for use in highly aerated white water.

The QIRC directed both parties to hold further discussions with the help of the Department of Workplace Health and Safety. As a result of these discussions a 'Provisional Improvement Notice' was placed on the QFRS.

Last week, I had further meetings with the QFRS regarding this matter and they have now offered to upgrade the Level 1 PFD's. Secondly, the UFU and QFRS will work with manufacturers to design a PFD specifically for use by our Members in rescue situations.

I wish to thank the Cairns Branch Executive for highlighting this issue and for their assistance in the QIRC via telephone conference.

John Oliver
State Secretary