



QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr John Oliver  
State Secretary  
United Firefighters Union of Australia  
Union of Employers Queensland  
Ground Floor, 286 Montague Road  
West End, QLD 4101

Dear Mr Oliver, *John*

I refer to your letter of 3 April 2014 in which you raise a number of matters in relation to the Commission's award modernisation process.

Rather than refer to paragraph numbers in your correspondence I will deal with the various issues raised, in dot point format, below:

- The "AMOD Team" comprises additional administrative resources recruited via the Industrial Registrar's Office to assist myself, as Head of the Commission's award modernisation project. On a day-to-day basis I direct the activities of the five members of the Team but they are otherwise accountable to the Registrar through Mr Brian Bond, Manager of the Award Modernisation Project.
- Proposed generic clauses and Schedules to be inserted into modernised awards were forwarded to all industrial organisations (including your own) and other interested parties late yesterday afternoon, together with accompanying correspondence from myself.

The draft clauses reflect the insertion into the proposed modern awards of matters contained in the Queensland Employment Standards (QES) in a way permitted by the relevant sections of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* (the Act), when read in conjunction with the QES (see, for example, s. 71NA). The provisions of the *Family Leave (Queensland Public Sector) Award - State 2012* will be replaced by the relevant Schedules.

- The award modernisation Request from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice requires the Commission to "modernise" **all** of its current awards in a manner provided for in the Act. As such, and in order to keep a history of its consideration of individual awards, the AMOD Team has given each Award under its control an Award Modernisation Number (e.g. MA/2014/60, MA/2014/61).

This number will be utilised in any correspondence between the AMOD Team and the parties, as well as when the award (or awards) is formally listed for Conference or other proceeding whilst going through the modernisation process.

- All awards of QIRC (83 of them) will undergo the award modernisation process in a manner required by the Act and the Attorney-General's Request. This includes the two specific awards (#60 and #61) in your correspondence.

The Attorney-General's Request contemplates that the Commission will use its discretion when "modernising" awards so as to comply with the Act and the Request. On this basis, and in order to set out its anticipated direction, the AMOD Team has, at my direction, included the situation of Auxiliary Fire Officers in its forward schedule. What happens to this group, insofar as "award modernisation" is concerned, is a matter for the future.

- Given that the industry/occupation of firefighters (and current award free Auxiliaries) is not the subject of present consideration by the AMOD Team, I do not intend to adjust the spreadsheet which has been published on the QIRC website.

When it comes time to consider this industry/occupation I shall be in contact with you to request your views about award modernisation - including reducing/refining the two awards presently in existence. At that same time I would propose to enter into discussions with both your Union and the relevant agency/agencies about the situation of Auxiliaries.

I note that you have initiated discussions with the relevant employer about "modernising" the current awards and I encourage you to continue to hold such discussions. To assist you to understand the likely format of awards being created by the AMOD Team I refer you to the Exposure Draft of the Queensland Public Service Officers' Award - State 2014, which was forwarded to you yesterday afternoon.

I trust that I have addressed all of the matters raised in your correspondence. Nonetheless, if you have any residual questions please do not hesitate to contact me - including via phone if you believe that to be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Bloomfield  
Deputy President

9 April 2014