



QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. John Oliver
State Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia
Ground Floor
286 Montague Road
WEST END Q 4101

Dear Mr Oliver,

Re: Award modernisation

In accordance with s 140C(1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* (Act) the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, has written to the Vice President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (Commission) requesting an award modernisation process be undertaken in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act. The request requires that an award modernisation process for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services sector is to be completed by 30 April 2015.

The Attorney-General's request to modernise Queensland awards requires the Commission to give consideration to making a consolidated award for all employees engaged in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (including Auxiliaries).

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice has been advised that:

- I will lead the Commission's Award Modernisation Team (AMOD Team); and
- the timetable for the creation of a modern award covering the Fire and Emergency Services sector (including Auxiliaries) is to be generally conducted in accordance with the process outlined in the attachment to this letter (Attachment 1).

I am corresponding with all relevant organisations seeking their assistance in creating a modern award covering this area. The present thinking of the AMOD Team is to arrive at an outcome whereby only one Award will apply. To that end, an examination of Certified Agreements filed in the Commission has identified a range of existing Awards said to have application to employees engaged in fire prevention activities. A list of the Awards said to have current relevance is recorded at the bottom of Attachment 1.

The timetable for award modernisation includes forwarding an early request to the parties to provide the AMOD Team with any documentation and/or information they may have compiled in the knowledge that award modernisation was to occur in 2014 / 2015.

If your organisation wishes to provide the AMOD Team with any documentation and/or information you might have which will assist us in the development of the initial Exposure Draft of a modern award covering the fire and emergency services sector you are requested to provide it to us by 24 September 2014. If you are in a position to send this material at an earlier date then that would be appreciated.

It is anticipated that the initial Exposure Draft of a modern Fire and Emergency Services Award will be provided to the parties by late October / early November 2014. After its release I will conduct conferences of all interested parties to discuss the content of the Exposure Draft with a view to addressing any concerns which a particular party may have in relation to it. Other conferences will be programmed as required to attempt to improve the initial Exposure Draft.

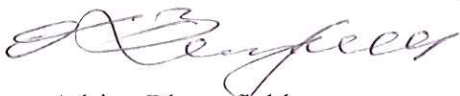
You will note that there is a very strict timetable for making of modern awards. This timetable needs to be adhered to if the Commission is to meet the timeline of 30 April 2015 set by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

Any documents/information you would like us to consider in the development of the initial Exposure Draft and/or any inquiries you might have should be delivered to the QIRC Registry or can be forwarded to the AMOD Team at the following email address:

QIRC.Awardmod@justice.qld.gov.au

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Bloomfield
Deputy President

10 September 2014

ATTACHMENT 1

Step 1 Request to parties to existing awards to provide any documentation/information they wish to provide to the Award Modernisation Team (AMOD) for consideration prior to release of the initial Exposure Drafts of the Modern Award(s). Any such documentation is to be provided by 24 September 2014.

Receipt by AMOD Team of documentation/information from parties.

Step 2 Initial Exposure Draft of a Modern Award to be provided to the parties to existing awards, as well as the date of the first conference, in late October / early November 2014.

Step 3 Conferences to be convened of the parties to the awards by Deputy President Bloomfield to try to resolve any differences about content.

Step 4 Final draft Modern Award provided to parties with request that any detailed objections and all supporting documentation be filed.

If no objection is received then new Modern Award made by Full Bench.

Step 5 If objections received then matter listed before Vice President for directions for the hearing of the objections by a Full Bench.

Step 6 Full Bench Hearing(s)

Step 7 Decision(s) by Full Bench. Matters decided by Full Bench to be incorporated into Modern Award. Award to be issued by Full Bench prior to 30 April 2015.

Awards in Fire and Emergency Services sector (including Auxiliaries)

1. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Communications Centres Award – State 2012
2. Auxiliary Fire Officers (presently Award Free)
3. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award – State 2012