



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA  
UNION OF EMPLOYEES QUEENSLAND

11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Deputy President Bloomfield  
Queensland Industrial Relations Commission  
GPO Box 373  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Deputy President Bloomfield,

**Re: Award modernisation**

I am in receipt of your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The United Firefighters' Union of Australia, Union of Employees - Queensland have not seen a request from the Attorney General and Minister for Justice that:

1. *"requires an award modernisation process for the 'Queensland Fire and Emergency Services sector' to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015";*

*or*

2. *"requires the Commission to give consideration to making a 'consolidated award' for all employees engaged in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (including Auxiliaries)".*

The fourth and latest version of the Attorney General's varied 'request' we have seen is posted on the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission website and dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014. That version does not include the elements you have set out in your letter.

Further your letter states that *"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 bottom of attachment 1 to your letter list three awards:

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S T R E N G T H      P R I D E      C O U R A G E

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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.*

*“Auxiliary Fire Officers (presently Award free)”, is not an “existing award said to have application to employees engaged in fire prevention activities”.*

I wrote to you on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 about ‘award modernisation’ and appreciate your reply of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014. I subsequently wrote to you on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 about award modernisation and have not yet received a reply to that correspondence. You will recall I was concerned about, amongst other things, the employer making a submission before a Full Bench of the Commission, suggesting you had already determined matters in relation to the awards binding our union.

We request that you provide us with a copy of the correspondence to which you refer to in the first paragraph of your 10<sup>th</sup> September letter and any other advice you are able to give us as to the *“timeline of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 set by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice”* you have referred to in your letter.

Please note that it is the view of the United Firefighters’ Union of Australia, Union of Employees - Queensland, that the two existing awards applicable to Queensland Fire and Emergency Service:

*Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award –State 2012*

*Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Communications Centres Award- State 2012;*

are awards which may be subject to ‘an award modernisation process’ and a bona fide ‘award modernisation request’ under the Act .

It is our view that there is no benefit, or objective rationale to seek to combine those two awards into a single award, and that they ought to be modernised separately and remain as two distinct separate awards.

I appreciate your assistance with these matters.

Yours faithfully



**John Oliver**  
**State Secretary**