



24 November 2014

**UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA
UNION OF EMPLOYEES QUEENSLAND**

Commissioner Knight
Queensland Industrial Relations Commission
GPO Box 373
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Commissioner Knight,

Re: Award Modernisation Process MA 60 and MA 61

1. I have received a copy of correspondence sent to you by QFES and dated 21st November 2014.

Matter number

The QFES correspondence submits that the current conferences regarding the 'award modernisation process' incorporate proceedings arising from the full bench decision of 1st August 2014 in matter number B/2014/7.

We have taken QFES correspondence to refer to the following order:

"That, pursuant to s 274(4)(a)(ii) of the Industrial Relations Act 1999, matter A/2014/1 is referred to Deputy President Bloomfield for his consideration pursuant to the Attorney-General's Award Modernisation Request under s 140C of the Act."

I request your confirmation as to whether or not, the QIRC adopts a similar view to QFES, in that the current conferences incorporate discussions pursuant to that order. Similarly, whether or not any of the previous discussions and communications between the registry staff/award modernisation team and the fire service have involved discussions relating to that order.

I am in receipt of your advice that the award modernisation conferences will prioritise other matters for the time being, however as the fire service submits that matter A/2014/1, is currently being dealt with by the QIRC as part of the award modernisation process conferences, I request clarification from the tribunal as to whether or not the conferences incorporate the referral set out in the order.

Attorney General's award modernisation request (as varied)

QFES also state in their letter that they are 'aware that the Attorney General's Request has revised the award modernisation for the QFES to April 2015.'

This awareness contradicts the information the union has recently sought to clarify, and the advice we received from Deputy President Bloomfield dated 12th November 2014.

UFUQ has not seen signed and dated versions of every variation to the Attorney General's initial award modernisation request made under Section 140CA of the Act.

However, to our knowledge, the request and variations have been issued as follows:

1. Initial request made under Section 140C of the Act. (19th December 2013)

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

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2. 1st variation to the request made under section 140CA of the Act. (3rd February 2014)
3. 2nd variation to the request made under section 140CA of the Act. (2nd May 2014)
4. 3rd variation made under section 140CA of the Act. (27th August 2014)
5. 4th variation made under section 140CA of the Act. (13th October 2014)

I request your confirmation, of our understanding as set out above, and clarification as to what is the actual current content of the Attorney General's 'award modernisation request' as varied.

QIRC letter to UFUQ dated 21st November 2014

I request, for our records, a signed version of your correspondence to UFUQ dated 21st November 2014.

Communications between registry staff/award modernisation team and QFES

UFUQ are concerned about communications between registry staff/award modernisation team and the fire service.

In our view, such communications is inappropriate and irregular, particularly when this communications is not divulged to all of the other parties.

Comments indicative of such communications are included in the 1st exposure draft, and refer to material, other than material distributed by QIRC to UFUQ.

The union requested the fire service to provide the union with the material they had submitted to QIRC, and the fire service did not provide such material to us.

QIRC provided the union copies of 14 industrial instruments, described as submissions from the QFES.

The 1st exposure draft incorporates material and commentary beyond any material described by QIRC as being submitted any of the parties (including material outside of 'standard clauses').

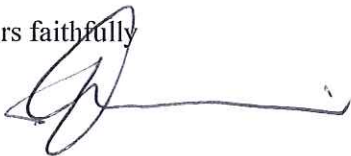
Further the material includes comments and questions which appear to extend beyond the boundaries of appropriate commentary from the QIRC registry staff/award modernisation team.

I request full disclosure of the process being undertaken, between the fire service and the QIRC registry/award modernisation team which the UFUQ has been excluded from to date.

I also intend to correspond to Deputy President Bloomfield about the communications between registry staff/award modernisation team and QFES, on the basis that Deputy President Bloomfield has written to us and indicated that he is leading the team, and by way of correspondence on 9th April 2014, that he directs the activities of the team.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact our Senior Industrial Officer, Mr John Spreckley on 3844 0366 or email at johnspreckley@ufuq.com.au.

Yours faithfully



John Oliver
State Secretary