



QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr J. Oliver
State Secretary
United Firefighters' Union of Australia,
Union of Employees, Queensland
286 Montague Road,
WEST END, QLD 4101

Ref: MA/2014/60 and MA/2014/61

26 November 2014

Dear Mr Oliver,

I refer to your letter of 24 November 2014.

As a follow-on from my discussions with participants in the award modernisation conference of the same day I can confirm that as per the Full Bench decision an order was made, pursuant to s 274(4)(a)(ii) of the Industrial Relations Act 1999, that matter A/2014/1 is referred to Deputy President Bloomfield for his consideration pursuant to the Attorney - General's Award Modernisation Request under s140C of the Act.

Until any other decision is made by the Court I am obliged to continue with the conferences in accordance with this order. However, as per my letter on 21 November 2014, I made it clear to the parties that we will deal with 'Auxiliary firefighters' in due course and will for now focus our efforts on the other parts of the Award(s).

As mentioned at the conference of 24 November 2014, notwithstanding the content of the Request, Deputy President Bloomfield and I were directed by the Vice President of the Commission to include the preparation of a modern award for the QFES sector in that group of awards which the Award Modernisation (AMOD) Team is to develop during the course of Stage 2 of the award modernisation process. Unfortunately a letter, in the same terms as that sent to other parties interested in Awards to be dealt with during Stage 2, was incorrectly sent to both UFU and QFES on 10 September 2014. This error was explained by Deputy President Bloomfield in his letter to you of 12 November 2014. Consequently, any reference by any party to Awards of interest to

UFU, referred to in the Minister's Award Modernisation Request of 27 August 2014 should be disregarded.

Lastly, in my letter dated 21 November 2014 and during the most recent award modernisation conference of 24 November 2014 I confirmed the reasons why members of the AMOD Team have communicated with QFES.

The QFES/PSBA response to matters raised with them, where relevant to proposed award clauses, has been included in the form of notes in the Exposure Draft. The reasoning behind the note was to alert all parties about the matters raised where it had a direct impact on the initial drafting of the proposed exposure draft. Nonetheless, copies of such communications are attached for your information.

The purpose of such engagement by the AMOD Team was to also seek clarification and gain a greater understanding of various elements of the industrial materials provided by QFES, given the unique nature of the sector's rostering processes and the role of the PSBA in administering the sector's payroll system.

Importantly, you'll note the majority of information provided by the QFES is in the form of HR policies or jointly signed documents (QFES and the UFUQ) where the parties have previously agreed on how existing industrial conditions should be interpreted.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'W. Knight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Industrial Commissioner Knight
Queensland Industrial Relations Commission