

# CODE RED

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I wish to inform members that the QFRS and the United Firefighters Union are now in dispute over the crewing of Operational Support Vehicles (OSV) after they were delivered to locations across the State without any additional Firefighters. Secondly, the QFRS does not agree that you deserve extra remuneration for the extra skills and training necessary to safely and proficiently use the additional equipment.

## **Background**

The UFU has been in discussion with the QFRS over this issue for some time and as the parties were not able to reach agreement, the QFRS determined to seek the assistance of the QIRC to settle the matter.

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February the Gladstone crew were directed to place the OSV on the frontline for immediate response (ghost manned). The UFU for safety and other reasons instructed Members not to respond in this appliance.

The QFRS notified the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission of a dispute and the Senior Industrial Officer and myself are due to appear in the Commission on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Apart from the OSV being a so called "*replacement vehicle*", I have a major concern for the health and welfare of our Members cross crewing up to seven different appliances with one crew of four.

Gladstone has a population of approximately 70 000 residents and hundreds of Billions of dollars in infrastructure, which is vital to the Queensland economy. The Fire Service believes that four Professional Firefighters make a suitable initial response to these risks.

In my opinion the QFRS has clearly dropped the ball in terms of keeping up with the population, risk and infrastructure not only in Gladstone, but across the State in general.

The Minister and QFRS should give consideration to the impact on the net economy if a major incident occurred in this location; it would be evident that the QFRS are not adequately protecting **our** assets.

I will keep you informed via "Code 2" after our conciliation hearing next week.

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

Authorised by John Oliver State Secretary - United Firefighters Union of Australia, Union of Employees - QLD