



Volume 26 Number 38

31 July 2012

“Fire Calls Only Industrial Action Suspended until further Notice”

The “Fire Calls Only” industrial action due to commence tomorrow 1 August 2012 is suspended until further notice.

The suspension of your action arises as a consequence of a belated application by QFRS to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC). The QFRS application sought to characterise your proposed industrial action as ‘unprotected’.

Late yesterday 30 July 2012 the QIRC issued a Declaration that our notice of industrial action given on 7 June 2012 was invalid.

The QIRC Declaration states:

“Pursuant to s. 274A of the Industrial Relations Act 1999, the Commission declares the Notice of industrial action of the United Firefighters’ Union of Australia, Queensland Branch, served on the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service on 7 June 2012 to be invalid for failure to comply with the requirements set out in s.175(3) of the Industrial Relations Act 1999.”

The QIRC accepted QFRS arguments that insufficient explanation of the nature of industrial action was included in the notice to enable the QFRS to institute adequate contingency plans.

UFUQ argued that QFRS fully understood the notice and had 7 weeks to do something about it.

The QFRS application to QIRC now reveals a situation where the “Fire Calls Only” action due to commence tomorrow, could be ‘unprotected’ and individual members and your union are exposed to financial penalties and other sanctions under the new industrial laws as well as civil law suits.

The decision won’t have a major impact on our overall campaign action. You will be advised as to future action as soon as possible.

All options are under consideration and your union will not retreat from taking whatever action is required to advance and defend UFUQ members’ interests.

In the meantime please note that the “Fire calls Only Action” which was to commence on 1 August 2012 is suspended until further notice.

John Oliver
State Secretary