



August 27, 2012

## **EB NEWSLETTER**

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#### **Bargaining Update**

### **Protected Action Ballot**

Members will be aware that the recently introduced new state industrial laws have brought a number of obstacles and delays to our campaign to defend our working conditions. Your union has now had approval from the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) for a protected action ballot. These processes have all taken time and are likely to take some time yet.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) has commenced the process of arranging two protected action ballots to determine whether members support the taking of industrial action to support our bargaining position. The ballots are for members of the United Firefighters' Union. There will be two ballots, one ballot is for communication centre staff and the other is for firefighters and station officers.

The ballots do not cover senior officers or auxiliaries.

ECQ will post a notice explaining the process, timetable and providing contact details.

ECQ is compiling two confidential lists of eligible voters (one for communications officers and one for firefighters), the ECQ list will be compiled from information provided to it, by your union and QFRS.

The ECQ list will form the roll of voters. The roll closes on Thursday 6 September 2012 at 4.00pm.

If you have recently changed address and you want to ensure that you get a vote, you should check with the ECQ returning officer that you are on the roll by contacting 07 3035 8057.





### Contact us:

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Once the roll has been finalised ECQ will post out ballot papers and return instructions to your home address.

The ballot opens on **Friday 7 September 2012** and **closes at 12 noon on Friday 21 September 2012**.

When you receive your ballot paper, your union recommends that you complete it straightaway and return it. Don't forget!

There will be two questions on the ballot. These questions were submitted by your union to the Queensland Industrial relations Commission (QIRC) and have been approved to go for a formal ballot.

Your union is encouraging all eligible members to vote and all members to vote "yes" to both questions. If the ballot is successful we will consult with members as to the commencement of the action.

The proposed action is in the form of bans and limitations but maintaining fire and emergency calls.

In order for protected action to be taken under the new state industrial laws, there must be a greater than 50% return of ballot papers and a greater than 50% "yes" vote of returned papers.

In the current environment we should be able to count on each other to deliver an overwhelming majority of ballots returned and an overwhelming "yes" vote.

Please ensure that your vote counts towards an impressive show of unity and support for the ballot questions.

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