



Media Release

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – QLD

24 September 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

99% of Career firefighters across Queensland vote to take strike action!

A record 99% vote in favour of taking industrial action has been returned by firefighters and fire communication officers voting in a 'secret ballot' under the Newman government's controversial new industrial laws.

The ballot was counted on 24 September 2012.

The huge ballot return rate and overwhelming endorsement is unprecedented. United Firefighters Union (UFUQ), State Secretary, Mr John Oliver said *"the results demonstrate the resolve of firefighters and communication officers to fight for a fair deal"*.

The ballot conducted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland empowers firefighters to take legally protected industrial action and avoid the new draconian fines legislated by the LNP government.

UFUQ State Secretary, Mr Oliver stated the following:

"Firefighters and communication officers have claimed only a few moderate issues about modernising some of their employment arrangements, but have been faced with a raft of sweeping demands and cost cutting claims imposed by QFRS and the state government.

QFRS and the state government refuse to retain common sense consultative arrangements which have been essential features of previous agreements, have objected to the inclusion of an occupational health and safety clause, and are insisting on trade-offs to fund modest wage adjustments.

Some of the QFRS and government claims are so naïve you really wonder who has dreamed them up.

Unfortunately, many of the government's cost cutting demands will risk community safety and our members want to negotiate sensible arrangements without the indiscriminate slashing".

QFRS are demanding that firefighters concede to a casualised workforce, 'simplified' remuneration and the removal of 20 or so existing clauses from their current agreement.

Mr Oliver also stated *"I've tried to get a meeting with the Emergency Services Minister Mr Jack Dempsey but so far he is avoiding the union"*.

Industrial action will escalate in the form of bans and limitations across the state of Queensland commencing this week.

“Our members are dedicated professionals and will not hurt the community” Mr Oliver said.

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