



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA
UNION OF EMPLOYEES QUEENSLAND

3 April 2014

Deputy President Bloomfield
Queensland Industrial Relations Commission
GPO Box 373
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Deputy President Bloomfield,

Re: “Award Modernisation (pursuant to s 140C (1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*)”

I am writing to you as the tribunal member who is heading the Award modernisation process.

The QIRC website includes a section about “award modernisation” described as:

“Award Modernisation (pursuant to s 140C (1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*)”

That section of the QIRC website then includes a number of documents including a spreadsheet outlining a timetable for modernising various pre modernisation state awards.

The spreadsheet states that the “AMOD Team” is preparing new Award clauses or schedules to replace the *Family Leave (Queensland Public Sector) Award – State 2012*.

We understand the “AMOD Team” to comprise additional administrative resources provided to the Commission to assist the tribunal in completing the “award modernisation process”.

I advise that the United Firefighters’ Union of Australia, Union of Employees, Queensland has an interest in the *Family Leave (Queensland Public Sector) Award – State 2012* and request the Commission to serve our union with any documents or directions relevant to any proposed amendments or other alterations to that award.

The spreadsheet also includes reference to two awards that the UFUQ have a particular interest in:

Viz: Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Communications Centres Award – State 2012
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award – State 2012

The spreadsheet states that these two awards are part of an “*Industry or Occupational Area*” being considered by the AMOD Team as part of “Stage 2” and that the two awards will be reviewed and modernised in the third quarter of 2014.

We understand the reference to “Stage 2” to mean stage 2 of the “award modernisation process” conducted pursuant to s 140C (1) of the Act as cited on the QIRC website.

The two awards have also been assigned an “award modernisation item number” as follows:

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Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Communications Centres Award – State 2012 (#60)
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award – State 2012 (#61).

These two awards are not included in the ‘award modernisation process pursuant to s 140C (1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*’ as described on the QIRC website.

On that basis, we believe the QIRC has erroneously included those awards on the spreadsheet document posted to the QIRC website.

On that basis, we request that your Honour cease dealing with those two awards and direct the AMOD Team to remove them from “stage 2” of the “process” set out in the document.

I advise that the UFUQ has initiated discussions with the relevant employer about those two awards and will endeavour to make some progress in coming months towards developing agreement on the making of relevant modern awards under chapter 5A of the Act.

The spreadsheet also refers to “*Auxillary Fire Officers (presently Award free)*”.

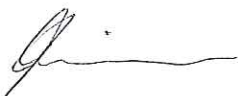
These groups of employees are ‘award free’ and are currently the subject of QIRC proceedings (A/2014/1; B/2014/7).

These group of employees are not the subject of an “award modernisation process” as defined in section 140BB (1) of the Act.

On that basis, reference to those particular employees within a spreadsheet describing a timetable for modernising awards is also in error and we request that the QIRC cease dealing with those employees in any process other than in the matters properly before the QIRC, and direct that the reference be removed from the AMOD team’s spreadsheet.

If you have any queries about this matter please contact Senior Industrial Officer Mr John Spreckley on 07 3844 0366.

Yours faithfully



John Oliver
State Secretary