



Ph: 3635 3503  
Our Ref: 05952-2014

1 SEP 2014



**Queensland Fire and  
Emergency Services**

Office of the  
Deputy Commissioner  
Operations and Emergency

Mr John Oliver  
State Secretary  
United Firefighters Union of Australia  
Union of Employees Queensland  
Ground Floor 286 Montague Road  
WEST END QLD 4101

Dear Mr Oliver

Thank you for your correspondence received on 25 August 2014 regarding Award Modernisation for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

I note your letter requests information on a number of matters associated with the award modernisation process that is to take effect for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), which we understand will be in 2015.

As you would be aware the legislative amendments of the Newman Government to the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* (the Act) have paved the way for the modernising of public sector awards, a process that was initiated with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) earlier this year with the Attorney-General's request under section 140C(1) of the Act. An amended request of the Attorney General to the QIRC on 2 May 2014 revised the date for modernising awards for industries and occupations not specifically mentioned in the request. I refer you to paragraph 18 (b)(iv) of the Attorney-General's request which can be viewed on the QIRC website. It is evident from this information that the QFES will be considered for modernising of awards associated with the QFES in the latter part of 2015.

I refer you to comments made by Vice President Linnane to an industrial officer of the United Firefighters Union (UFU) in a directions hearing on the issue of your application for an Auxiliary Award on 7 February 2014. The Vice President's comments can be found at paragraphs [20] and [30] of page 4; paragraph [20] of page 5 and paragraph [5] of page 7 of the transcript of the directions hearing.

It is evident that the Vice President, relying on the information presented in the Attorney-General's section 140C request, the legislative changes to the Act and the objectives associated with those changes, considers that the QFES will have one award for, what the Vice President identifies is the 'Fire Industry'. This statement has been recited to you in letters from the QFES regarding the award modernisation process.

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In a letter of 23 July 2014 regarding the award modernisation process for the QFES, I stated the 'QFES is keen to be prepared to present our version of the modern award for the fire industry....'. The context of the information presented in the letter was in relation to the new timing of the award modernisation process scheduled for QFES and, as a consequence, meetings between the UFU and the QFES to discuss the contents and development of agreed matters for a version of a new modern award for the QFES would not need to be scheduled as early as July 2014.

I reiterate the message in that letter of 23 July 2014, and state that the QFES will be in a position to discuss award modernisation with the UFU later this year.

Should you require further assistance, please contact Mr Glenn Carthew, Manager Employee Relations Unit, Public Safety Business Agency on telephone (07) 3635 3503 or email [glenn.carthew@psba.qld.gov.au](mailto:glenn.carthew@psba.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MR', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark Roche AFSM  
**Acting Deputy Commissioner**  
**Operations and Emergency Management**