



**UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA
UNION OF EMPLOYEES QUEENSLAND**

24 September 2014

Mr Mark Roche
Deputy Commissioner
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Park Road and Kedron Park Road
KEDRON QLD 4031

Dear Deputy Commissioner,

RE: Award Modernisation

Thankyou for your letter dated 1st September 2014.

Your letter refers to the Attorney General's "request" under section 140 C (1) of the Act and in particular a subsequent document uploaded on the QIRC website at a particular point in time.

We suspect your reference is to the Attorney General's second variation to his initial request of 19th December 2013, dated 2nd May 2014.

Subsequent to the QIRC publication of the 2nd May 2014 variation document, a further document has been uploaded onto the QIRC website. This appears as if it may be a result of a third variation made in or about 27th August 2014, to the initial 'award modernisation request'.

The latest version of a document described as a 'consolidated request' appears to require the 'award modernisation process' relevant to QFES to be completed by 31st December 2015.

Since we initially provided our draft awards and explanatory material to you in April 2014, there has been a State Wage Case decision operative from 1st September 2014.

We have consequently updated the two draft awards and two related explanatory tables to include the current minimum award wage rates.

We have also included:

1. A proposed mechanism for an annual adjustment to the "aerial allowance" linked to annual adjustments in the "Queensland Minimum Wage";
2. A minimum award rate for communication managers classified at "Z" level;

S T R E N G T H P R I D E C O U R A G E

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3. Further minor clarification and corrections.

Note we have not included any commentary in relation to Schedule 1 of Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award – State 2012 as the content is managed by the Together Union.

The union is in receipt of a letter from QIRC dated 10th September, which appears to include numerous errors, or references to matters which are as yet undisclosed. We have queried the letter and are waiting for a response from QIRC. We suspect QFES may have received a similar letter as it refers to “parties”.

The QIRC letter requested documents or information we may have compiled in the knowledge that award modernisation was to occur. We intend to provide QIRC with the correspondence between the parties, including the UFUQ draft proposed awards and explanatory tables.


We request that you provide to UFUQ copies of any documents or information QFES has compiled and sent to QIRC, in the knowledge that award modernisation was to occur.

We note your advice that you will be able to meet with us later this year to discuss progressing award modernisation and reiterate our requests for you to meet with us and discuss the information and material we have provided to you. I request that you advise of a date when you are able to meet with us later this year.

We also reiterate our requests that QFES provide to the union the QFES’s position as to how these pre-modernisation awards might be redrafted to comply with the requirements for modern award content in the Act.

If you require further information please contact our office on 07 3844 0366.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Oliver', followed by a long horizontal line.

John Oliver
State Secretary