

Attention All Branch Committee members, Delegates and Stations:

Firstly - special thanks to all members who attended the First and Second Reading Speeches at the WA Parliament - lower house- today.

We had very short notice and in a little over 12 hours we had over 90 members in the gallery in uniform - we particularly thank those members who came off night shift to attend and those crews who stood by from Parliament House.

Attached is the Minister's speech (which kicked off the second reading stage) and a copy of the amended Bill and a copy of the explanatory memorandum for the Bill. Please print off the attachments and leave a copy at each workplace.

There is no political opposition to the Bill from any Party or Independent, and we expect the Parliamentary process will be complete early in the next sitting of the State Parliament (beginning of September 2013).

We acknowledge with thanks the Premier Colin Barnett, the Minister Joe Francis, the previous Minister Troy Buswell for their stewardship and support of these additional protections for firefighters and we thank Margaret Quirk for her efforts and for the ongoing support from the ALP. we also acknowledge and thank Marty Aldridge for his assistance during campaigning with the National Party and Giz Watson, the previous Greens leader. We will meet with and thank these politicians when the progress of the Bill has been completed.

We thank and pay tribute to our senior officers, in particular Commissioner Gregson and DC Bailey who welcomed and listened to the evidence presented by IAFF Vice President Alex Forrest from Winnipeg and Chief Ken Block from Edmonton, Alberta. We build on the work established with the Federal legislation achieved by our National Union and Kevin Jolly will thank all members of the National Executive for their support. Similar Bills have been introduced in Tasmania (which requires some technical changes) and South Australia.

Finally, our members who have died and our members who have struggled with the experience of occupational cancer and the medical treatment and who have still given evidence or have been a part of campaigning - this legislation is dedicated to you and your families.

We will keep you informed about the Bill's progress and please pass on this information to all Platoons and members off duty or on leave.

Lea Anderson
Assistant Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia- WA Branch