



THE UNITED PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bulletin

President: Clem Chan

Secretary: Timothy Kucera

Bulletin NO: 04/2021

27 August 2021

The Fortnightly Muster

All Members:

We hope this bulletin finds the membership safe and well during these tumultuous and uncertain times. More than ever, it is imperative that we apply support, care, and understanding to any matters and interactions that we have along the way. As with all things in life, where there is smoke, there is fire. The fortnight just past has presented challenges where the membership must stand in solidarity.

The most recent Committee of Management meeting was held on Wednesday 18th August. It was a long sitting for all involved and we thank the elected officials for their commitment and contributions thus far.

One matter that took up much of the discussion and debate on the day was the reluctant acceptance by the Committee of the decision by DFES to re-locate the Canning Vale 3.4 and the subsequent plans for implementation. What must be clear is that this issue has been ongoing since October 2020. Resolution to the matter had to be achieved for several reasons, these being the:

- Working conditions and mental health impact on Canning Vale and Cockburn members
- Deterioration of UPFU/DFES working relationships
- Uncertainty for the wider membership on future appliance movements and the subsequent impact on the Metropolitan Relief Pool
- Limited communications and consultation prior to the decision to re-locate from DFES explaining the impact
- Inordinate amount of time and resources devoted to the issue

The Union executive recognises the good faith displayed by DFES around consideration and extensions made by senior officers on the 3.4 re-location following the WAIRC interim orders. Whilst communication to the directly affected members has improved, it is disappointing that the broader impact pertaining to the implementation planning moving forward was not reported to the wider membership as well. This has led to more questions and uncertainty which could have been mitigated with a simple informative.

The extension dates on the EOIs for vacant firefighter positions was to allow the affected members time to consider what options they may have, considering that in a few weeks, the process of implementation for the 3.4 re-location will commence. Due to the confusion and upheaval, it was a joint decision by UPFU and DFES to provide a reasonable pause on staff

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movements to facilitate this. If you require further information, please contact the RTG committee members.

Another matter that has progressed since the previous release is the consideration of our current superannuation fund structure. There have been constructive conversations between the superannuation board and the Union executive, with a briefing note submitted to the Premier's Office for consideration. Part of the recommendation includes the establishment of a stakeholder committee to address the concerns of members and determine the best way forward. Expect more information to be sought from the membership and communicated back in the ensuing months.

By now, most members should have received the circular asking for reports to compile a UPFU submission for the Woorloo Bushfire Inquiry. We thank those members that have provided feedback so far. We need more. This is an opportunity for direct member engagement into a process that may have far reaching consequences for us as the Fire and Rescue Service and the community at large. We can only present the information that is provided so please contribute to this effort. All accounts will be collated and included in the submission, your experience matters.

Regarding Union official positions, we are pleased to announce that the election for an Albany station delegate was organised and voted on with nearly 100% turnout via email and mobile phone. This coincided with a station meeting and regional DO meeting that was attended well. A catch up with MLA Rebecca Stephens also took place. The three vacancies on the Committee of Management have been reported to the Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) and we are awaiting their response before the AEC makes contact to begin the by-election process. It is timely to remind everyone to contact the Union office to update their postal details. I say again, everyone, **contact the Union office to update their postal details.**

Finally, members should have access to a list of current committee members, along with their allocated portfolios. If you have a query, please refer to the list and contact one of the three nominated points of contact for the specific issue initially. The committee member will try to resolve the issue in the first instance and only refer onwards if required. Outside of office hours, remember that the duty phone **(0433 927 232)** can be called for any other matters that fall outside of the portfolios.

Strength in Unity

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