

UFU eboa 2009-2011

BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 098

Volume: 17

Date: Tuesday 13 July 2010

TO: ALL CFA MEMBERS

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING UPDATE and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

EBA UPDATE

Members will be aware of the dispute between the CFA and UFU regarding the creation of one single agreement for Operational Staff, OOs and OMs. The Australian Electoral Commission concluded its ballot of OOs and OMs this Monday, with 85% of respondents voting in favour of a single agreement.

It's always been the position of the UFU that a single agreement is one which reflects the team work ethic essential to operational firefighting whilst maintaining the autonomy of OOs and OMs in their own right. We also believe that there should be an open and transparent career path for fire-fighters to aspire to.

Although the CFA and the UFU were in dispute over this matter and both presented strong adversarial legal arguments in Fair Work Australia (FWA), it's clear that the overwhelming view of employees was the crucial factor in Commissioner Roe's final decision. In giving his verbal decision, Commissioner Roe ruled that:

- OOs and OMs were *fairly chosen* to be covered under one single agreement
- The overwhelming number of employees in favour of a single agreement was pivotal in his decision
- His decision supported the existing coherent rank structure

MORE FIREFIGHTERS, NOT LESS

The UFU anticipates that, despite disagreeing with the CFA on this matter, EBA negotiations will continue as per usual in good faith.

Today's decision is a historic one in the history of the CFA, and will contribute to positive and smooth industrial arrangements into the future. The UFU will continue to advocate in the interests of its members and will now work with the CFA to ensuring the new single agreement improves conditions and wages for all members.

CFA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The UFU Branch Committee of Management now believes it's time to report back to members to give an update on the progress of negotiations.

We anticipate calling a general membership meeting for next week at the MUA building in North Melbourne. Details will be provided based on the availability of the MUA.

Authorized by Peter Marshall, Branch Secretary

Strength in Unity