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March 2018

The view from the Station Floor.

UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS UNION AUSTRALIA  
AVIATION BRANCH

Our Union belongs to you, our 806 professional Aviation Firefighter members. To remain strong, it needs your support, your input and your actions.

FLASHPOINT is your Newsletter, so read it, be informed, share it, contribute to it.

Speak Up and Have your Say!

***'Strength In Unity - Proud to be Union'***



- From the Branch Secretary PIA Ballot
- High Flyers Pay No Tax
- SFFD Breast Cancer Cluster
- Chemical Concern NT News
- Diesel Particulates
- Another New Minister
- VALE Bruce Marriage
- News Lance Kent

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Members who wish to contribute ideas or provide comments or contribute articles please just hit reply to this email. It will be passed on to the appropriate BCOM member or UFUA Executive.



## FROM THE BRANCH SECRETARY

### EA Update

Your UFUA has been comprehensively supported in the Protected Action Ballot.

779 Members on the roll of voters  
508 Ballots returned  
4 Ballots rejected at preliminary scrutiny  
504 Admitted to scrutiny

64.69% of return.

Your UFUA attended the AEC and provided a scrutineer to check the ballot. We can advise that there were only 12 full No votes out of the entire 504 returns. For a detailed analysis check the report attached below.

Airservices as per their recent comment in the Monitor, keeps trying to run the with the concept that our members don't support the union and want the EA finalised regardless of the cost. I think the PIA Ballot pretty clearly shows were your support lies. Thank You.

Your UFUA want this EA done and dusted too but we are sticking to what our members told us, very clearly. No Loss of Conditions.

The Branch Executive and I are currently meeting about the EA with Airservices in Brisbane. We will continue to bargain and as we said only use Protected Industrial Action if Airservices forces our hand.

Remember the Motto: Strength in Unity. That's what you our members displayed with the PIA ballot. Stay Strong, Hold the Course.

If you did not receive a ballot paper or did not return yours, please understand how much we all need your support.

Please Help us to Help You!

### LATE NEWS

EA negotiations continued on 7 and 8 March and concluded with another revised offer from Airservices. The offer represents a significant shift in Airservices position and will be discussed at an urgent meeting of our BCOM today, Friday 9th March.

A further update will be issued following today's BCOM meeting.

Henry

## STRENGTH IN UNITY - PROUD TO BE UNION

Link to the AEC Report

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JNOcBvFUKUxlaQY3bsCjbeAWrO8I0u4m/view?usp=sharing>

**Make sure your address and contact details are up to date.  
Phone Julie on 07 38465580**



QANTAS has lifted first-half profit 18 per cent to \$607 million and will return another \$378 million of capital to shareholders in the form of a share buyback.

Underlying pre-tax profit for the six months to December 31 has soared 14.6 per cent to a record \$976 million, but net profit has fallen **short of 2016's record \$688 million due to \$119 million of costs** including redundancies and the introduction of the Dreamliner aircraft.

## High-flyers land no tax

Alan Joyce, the CEO of Qantas, is a major supporter of corporate tax cuts in Australia.

Photo: AAP

**Not one of Australia's biggest airlines has paid corporate tax since at least 2013,** including Virgin and its subsidiary Tigerair, Etihad, Emirates and Qatar.

Each one of those companies has sold billions of dollars worth of tickets in Australia. When asked for an explanation, both Qantas and Virgin pointed the ABC to their historical losses and the entirely legitimate **use of Australia's tax laws that allow them to** offset those losses against future profits indefinitely.

Both companies were at pains to point out that, notwithstanding their zero corporate tax liabilities, they had continued to collect and pay departure taxes, fuel and alcohol excises, payroll tax, GST and FBT.

Presumably that's what the Etihad spokesman was alluding to in his statement to the ABC.

“Etihad is fully compliant with all Australian tax requirements, and has paid all the taxes it is obligated to do so under Australian law.”

**Ordinary Australians are stuck with the bill yet again! Thanks Malcolm.**

UFUA Photo Library

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ByXrMwIAV5n8VEFubGtTOWU2SkU?usp=sharing>

UFUA Communications: (New Correspondence)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ByXrMwIAV5n8U2t1a2xocDZDUTA?usp=sharing>

Lessons Learned:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ByXrMwIAV5n8TjNHT3B1WmFhREk?usp=sharing>

WHS Toolbox:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LNiKnCSa8bjaL4I3KUXo07p6s-RIGqL1?usp=sharing>



## **SF Fire Department sees spike in breast cancer rate**

**Officials said 15 percent of the female firefighters between 40 and 50 years old have been diagnosed with breast cancer.**

By FireRescue1 Staff

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Fire Department officials said they are seeing their female firefighters diagnosed with breast cancer at an alarming rate. [NBC Bay Area](#) reported that the department has the most female firefighters in the country, with 16 percent of their firefighters being female.

**Fifteen percent of the department’s female firefighters between the age of 40 and 50 years old have been diagnosed with breast cancer, which is six times the national average.** "Cancer is a concern for the San Francisco Fire Department as well as the fire service nationwide. But in San Francisco, we have seen and we do have numbers of elevated cancer rates for male and female firefighters," Jeanine Nicholson, deputy chief

of administration for the department, said.

More than 250 firefighters from the department, both active and retired, have died of cancer in the last 10 years.

Nicholson is among the group of female firefighters who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2012, she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of the disease called triple negative breast cancer. "Within two weeks, I had a double mastectomy and a port implanted in my chest," she said. "And a month later, I started what was the first of 16 rounds of chemotherapy."

To see the news story open the link below. Your UFUA urges all our members male and female to get regular check-ups and testing for cancer.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/san-francisco-fire-department-sees-spike-in-breast-cancer-rate-1171081283889>



## Chemical Concern for Creek NT News

Lauren Roberts

The NT Environmental protection authority is actively investigating a number of serious allegations about the use and disposal of firefighting chemicals at Darwin Airport.

Airservices Australia which operates out of Darwin Airport uses firefighting foam containing man made per and poly fluoroalkyl

substances (PFAS). PFAS chemicals don't break down in the environment, and the impact on human health is still being investigated.

Airservices Australia leading firefighter Matthew Shedden claims millions of litres of tainted water is pumped into Rapid Creek every year.

Mr Shedden said 365 days a year, Airservices three rescue trucks were tested on Rescue Rd. He said the water in the trucks was contaminated with PFAS Chemicals, which fed into storm water drains and flowed into Rapid Creek.

This story was also played out on Channel 9 News NT and on Radio ABC Darwin on the Drive programme. To listen click on the link below the PFAS story commences around the 54 min mark.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/darwin/programs/drive/drive/9472642>



# Diesel Particulates

Firefighters are exposed to many contaminants throughout their careers, some of which are better understood than others. For example, carbon monoxide is a single gaseous compound. The health effects of overexposure to carbon monoxide have been studied for many years and are well understood. It is easily tested in

the air using convenient electronic monitoring equipment. One can compare the results of that testing with the established Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) workplace Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 50 parts per million (PPM) in air, to easily determine whether there is a likely health-hazardous overexposure.

Diesel exhaust, on the other hand, is a complex smoke mixture, which contains dozens of compounds including both gases and particles. Diesel exhaust is not a simple workplace air contaminant, as is carbon monoxide.

**Diesel exhaust health risks OSHA, in its 2013 "Hazard Alert for Diesel Exhaust/Diesel Particulate Matter," identifies short-term** health effects from exposure to high concentrations of diesel exhaust and diesel particulate matter (DPM) that may include headache, dizziness, and irritation of the eye, nose and throat. OSHA also identifies prolonged diesel exhaust and DPM exposure as increasing the risks of cardiovascular, cardiopulmonary and respiratory disease, and lung cancer.

The evidence for diesel exhaust as a carcinogen (cancer-causing material) is relatively strong: In addition, Firefighters are exposed to other hazardous chemicals and carcinogens from smoke associated with Fire response and overhaul. IARC Group 1 carcinogens in smoke (not specific to diesel exhaust) include arsenic, asbestos, benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, 1-3 butadiene, soot and dioxins. IARC Group 2 carcinogens in smoke (again, not specific to diesel exhaust) include creosote, PCBs and 1-nitropyrene.

A NIOSH study of approximately 30,000 career firefighters over nearly 60 years (1950 through 2009) showed an overall excess in cancer incidence and mortality, including related to lung cancer. This study did not focus exclusively on diesel exhaust; therefore, it is important that fire departments do not focus exclusively on the control of diesel exhaust for the protection of their personnel from these health risks. However, while diesel exhaust is not a singular issue, the prevention of overexposure to diesel exhaust is a very important control consideration.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – **Diesel Exhaust "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" (2003)**

National Toxicology Program (NTP) – **Diesel Particulate Matter "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" (2000)**

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – Diesel Engine Exhaust  
“carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)” (2012)

The link below will take you to some detailed reports on Diesel Particulates and provide a better understanding to why the UFUA is serious about controlling these risks.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_4wyxvRBOHB8C1833etPobpYJeSume4M?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_4wyxvRBOHB8C1833etPobpYJeSume4M?usp=sharing)



## **Probably the shortest Tenure yet for an Infrastructure Minister**

The Hon [Barnaby Joyce](#) MP has announced that he will resign as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, effective 8am on Monday.

I thank Barnaby for his service as deputy prime minister and in his various ministerial roles in which he has been a fierce advocate for rural and regional Australia.

**The Coalition between the Liberals and the Nationals is Australia’s most successful political partnership, having endured for more than 95 years.**

This partnership is undiminished and will continue to deliver opportunity and security for all Australians.



As a result of the Nationals' election of a new leader and consequent ministerial changes, the Hon Michael McMaster MP will be the new Deputy Prime Minister and minister for infrastructure and transport.

**McMaster will make Infrastructure Minister no 4 since the Liberals have been in power.**



As a member of the United Firefighters Union Aviation Branch you have access to the Union Shopper and the great deals and benefits that entails. Click the button below and register now to begin saving. Just another reason why it pays to belong to your UFUA.

Start Saving Now <https://www.unionshopper.com.au/>



## **VALE Notice**

### Bruce Marriage

The UFUA regrets to inform you that one of our retired firefighters has passed away. Bruce Marriage was a long serving firefighter and officer in the DCA and Department era. A private cremation was held for family members only.

There is a memorial service is on today at Hervey Bay the 12th March 2018 at 11am. Sorry for the late notice.

Note: The UNION just received a call from Lance Kent one of our retired firefighters/officers. We informed you all in another issue that unfortunately Lance has a serious cancer issue. With the help of your UFUA Lance has had his claim under presumptive legislation approved. This will go a long way to assist by easing the financial burden. He stated he is approved for all treatment, all medicines and even for transport to the medical appointments.

If you know any Firefighters that are suffering cancer let them know about Presumptive Legislation or put them in contact with the Union.