



**PROUD TO BE UNION**

Registered Office:

86A O'Shanassy St, Sunbury, Victoria 3429

Postal Address: PO Box 966, Sunbury 3429

Ph: (03) 9746 3722 Fax: (03) 9746 3766

Email: [ufuavat1@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ufuavat1@bigpond.com.au)

ABN: 96 533 521 914

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** ALL MEMBERS

**FROM:** Mick Farrell – Branch Secretary

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**SUBJECT:** RE: FWA MORITA HEARING - 9<sup>th</sup> June 10

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The Morita ASV that the ARFF has purchased to use at Category 10 airports for mounting an internal firefighting attack has raised many concerns with the union.

We have been in discussions with the ARFF about those concerns for around two years yet the ARFF has failed to properly address the majority of them. In fact, the ARFF recently went on to advise the union in writing that, even given the concerns we had highlighted to them regarding members' safety when operating the vehicle, in their opinion discussions could go no further and we will just have to agree to disagree on these matters.

Further to this, Airservices notified Fair Work Australia (FWA) of a dispute between the UFU and ASA regarding the Morita and ASA also lodged a second notification seeking FWA to intervene and stop/prevent industrial action taking place in Sydney. (refer memo 20<sup>th</sup> April).

We have maintained that there is no industrial action taking place because we have continued to assist the ARFF in the further development of the Morita through the involvement of Melbourne members. Our position is that the concerns raised are bona fide safety issues and, therefore, fall within the scope of the CA; hence legal to pursue and not illegal industrial action.

The FWA hearing took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of June and, after hours of conciliation which included ASA withdrawing their claim to prevent/stop industrial action, the following points were agreed between the parties and now have legal standing:

**Point 1. The following words are to be added to the "Local Instruction - Category 10 Operations" documentation maintained by Airservices Australia. The words that will be added to the page that has the heading "Category 10 Operations" and on the left-hand column "Riding Disposition" are as follows:**

*Two firefighters will be allocated to crew the Morita ASV. One as a pedestal operator and the other to manage water supply and clear the hose as required. The operators in the basket will not be required to descend the ladder to clear the hose.*

**Point 2 of the agreement is as follows:**

*Upon commencement of training on the Morita ASV in Sydney on and from 30 June 2010 ARFF will arrange a meeting between the UFU and ARFF engineering representatives to further explore "engineering solutions".*

**Point 3:**

*The parties remain committed to an ongoing review and safety improvement of the Morita ASV vehicle operation.*

**Point 4:**

*The UFU proffers the following undertaking to the Commission: the UFU will communicate to its Sydney membership that:*

*(a) There is no ban in respect of any training on the Morita ASV in Sydney from 30 June 2010;*

*(b) The UFU memorandum dated 20 April 2010 is no longer applicable.*

In accordance with point 4 above, we advise our Sydney members that there is no ban on the Morita and that the memorandum of the 20<sup>th</sup> April no longer applies.

It was also further clarified by the UFU with the Commissioner and supported by Airservices that the Morita would be staffed by a minimum of four firefighters when carrying out firefighting operations.

We will continue to pursue the safety improvements we seek regarding the Morita for our members as a result of this outcome.

In Unity



Mick Farrell  
Branch Secretary