

23rd December 2015

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UFU OF A AVIATION BRANCH

Newsletter



PPC Procurement Project

Aviation Branch and AS/ARFF met in Canberra on Monday 14th December for further discussions on this project. Central to the discussions was the consultation process and your Union's involvement in the project. Your Union felt confident that following these discussions and a presentation from our national SMEs Mark Gribble and Neil Mangelsdorf AS/ARFF would acknowledge that there issues that need to be addressed.

It is pleasing to report that late last week the Chief Fire Officer sent the following advice to your Union:

"Firstly, thank you for attending the PPE meeting earlier this week. With regard to the PPE project status, I was pleased to see that Airservices and the UFU's views were broadly aligned regarding the functional requirements (noting there were some differences). That said, as a result of discussions during the meeting, especially in relation to the completion of some safety and risk work, I have reviewed the activities undertaken to date and identified areas that need to be revisited. To that end, I will arrange a further risk workshop in January that will involve a broader range of participants including an invitation for Wes Garrett as the UFU representative.

..... we are planning to hold the risk workshop on 19 January (location to be decided). I will be in touch again early January with further details.

Finally, can you please thank Mark and Neil again for me, all in Airservices found their attendance beneficial, especially Marks presentation."

Your Union looks forward to working collaboratively with AS/ARFF to ensure the best outcome for your protection on the job.

ARFFS Regulatory Policy Review

On Monday this week [21st December] your Union received the following email advice from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development:

"Dear Stakeholder

As announced in the Australian Government's response to the Aviation Safety Regulation Review, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, (the Department), in consultation with Airservices Australia and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority has been undertaking a regulatory policy review of Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (ARFFS).

The Department has released a regulatory policy review consultation paper that considers potential future arrangements in relation to the provision of ARFFS at Australian airports."

The Department invites industry and public comments on the issues raised in the Regulatory Review Policy Paper by close of business Friday 12 February 2016. The Regulatory Policy

Review Paper, along with a public comments portal is available on the Department's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/arffs/index.aspx.

This review is an extremely important issue for your Union as it has the potential to significantly affect the provision of ARFFS in Australia and as a result, future employment opportunities with AS/ARFF. Your Union has already begun significant activity to prepare a response to the review paper and vital to our response are your thoughts and concerns.

As a result of the Christmas and New Year period and the unavailability of key members during this period to adequately review and provide a response to such complex proposals, your Union has asked for and been granted an extension of time to respond until **29 February 2016**. This will allow you to carefully consider the matters raised and for you and your Union to properly review the paper and prepare our submission in reply.

Please take the time to go through the policy review paper and give your thoughts and concerns to your Unit Organiser or Branch Committee of Management Delegate or email them to branchsecretary@ufuav.asn.au as soon as you can.

Federal Court Matters

The Federal Circuit Court set down the 22nd of April for hearings on your Union's applications relating to Rest Relief [no 8 hour break], Higher Duties and hours and overtime payments while attending workshops and courses. AS/ARFF have requested a deferment until a date in May as their counsel is not available on this date.

EA Clause 4.7 Rest Relief

Reports from members in various locations are that ARFF management have issued emails stating claims for "no 8 hour break" are not to be paid. **Such an instruction is in breach of the EA.** If you work hours that invoke the application of clause 4.7 of the EA, you are entitled to the benefits of that clause.

The provisions of the EA are not "nice to haves" or something that you only apply when you feel like it. The EA is a legally binding document which AS/ARFF **must** comply with.

Members who are entitled to claim under clause 4.7 should do so and record their claim on the relevant document and keep a copy for tender in litigation, if necessary. Refusals to pay these claims should be reported to your Union through your Organiser, BCOM Delegate or directly to the Branch Secretary.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Bright and Prosperous 2016

Finally, your Branch Committee of Management wishes all members and their families a very safe and joyful Christmas and our wish that 2016 brings everyone all that they hope for. We look forward to continuing to working with you all in 2016 which promises to be a very challenging year for us all. Thank you for supporting YOUR Union.

***PS: don't forget our website
www.ufuav.asn.au and to become a**

*member of our facebook group,
UFUA Aviation Branch*

Authorised by Henry Lawrence Branch Secretary United Firefighters' Union of Australia Aviation Branch