

Meeting opened: 10:32am

Attendance: Wes Garrett (Secretary) – Chair, Michael McDonald (ACT), Justin Harpley (Nth Qld), Chris Putnam (NSW), Jesse Page (SA), Matt West (Tas), Chris Jones (WA), Pat Shanahan (Sth Qld) – arrived late, Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator).

Apologies: Rory Thomas McCabe (President), Glenn Laurie (Vic), Zack Van Loenhout (NT).

Acknowledgement to Country:

“We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture”.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved: Wes Garrett

“that the Minutes of the previous BCOM meeting held on 4th August 2023 be received and adopted”.

Seconded: Justin Harpley

CARRIED

Business Arising out of the Minutes**EA & Log of Claims 2024**

The Secretary referred BCOM to a Draft Log of Claims on the Google Drive that is being compiled for BCOM approval. He asked BCOM to seek feedback from their Delegates on proposed claims and report back to him.

Part 176 Policy Proposal

The Secretary reported that the Union has heard back from Vic, SA, WA, NT, QLD government ministers, all providing their support.

Meetings with Political Allies

The Secretary reported that Catherine King has responded to our recent correspondence, and to correspondence issued by the National Secretary. She has made herself available for a meeting which has yet to be scheduled.

Norfolk Island EA

The Secretary reported that in the absence of our Industrial Officer, the President will likely take up the negotiation role. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd August. The Fairwork bargaining order has been adjourned for 4 weeks.

The Secretary reported that he had a meeting with Norfolk Island members last week and asked them to provide a list of the industrial actions they would be prepared to take, for example they could provide fire extinguisher maintenance but not charge the council for it.

The Secretary reported that Norfolk Island members do not want Airservices to take them over and that the Council have an offer to put to us at their next meeting.

Airservices Act – Board Membership

The Secretary reported that the Minister has appointed 2 new board members.

HSR Recruitment/Health & Safety Committee

The Secretary reported that the ARFFS workplace HSC have called for a meeting today to discuss appropriate facilities and fatigue management for all non-24-hour long hours of operation stations. Sunshine Coast, one of several locations in question, receives regular delayed flights and are not provided with the appropriate facilities for operating hours that extend between 2200-0600.

The Secretary reported that the Constitution for the HSC will be ratified at the meeting.

CASA Meeting

The Secretary reported that he has sent a reminder for a face to face meeting with Brad Parker on 2nd August and is again awaiting a response.

ARFFS WRS Decommissioning

The Secretary reported that there are rumors circulating that the Townsville's WRS may be returned to service. Bob Katter and his advocacy likely responsible.

Brisbane Airport PFAS Litigation

The Secretary reported that Senior Counsel has been notified of the first request for one of our members to be called as a witness in the Brisbane airport PFAS litigation hearing.

UFUA Transfers Committee

The Secretary reported that advertising for recruit course #100 has begun. Hamilton Island received a recruit in June 2023. The advertising suggests there are recruit vacancies at HI. Megan Brennan is drafting a procedure which will provide a framework for the transfers process. The next meeting is on Thursday 24th August.

Airservices Consultation

Inclusive Facilities

The Secretary reported that Airservices are now consulting with us on this. BCOM Nth Qld advised that they are getting a whole new refurbishment rather than inclusive facilities at Cairns. Many meetings have been undertaken on the issue our WHS Coordinator making positive inroads.

TRA Dispute

The Secretary reported that our legal team have drafted a submission for our conference in Canberra next week. The dispute is currently listed in the ACT, logistically it would be preferable to have it moved to Adelaide. Highly desirable for operational firefighters to give evidence at the Commission. We have a list of prospective witnesses.

Fire Control Centre

The Secretary reported that Airservices want the regs to change. Western Sydney station design currently proposes CCTV rather than current human field of view configuration.

Domestic Response

The Secretary referred BCOM to a letter received from the Minister.

AV Branch Online Store

BCOM ratified to purchase 100 x hoodies

BCOM ratified to purchase 40 x baseball caps

Moving forward and to eliminate any hurdles with achieving minimum order numbers we have been liaising with ACT and VIC branch. If we can combine our ordering power the flow on effect will be greater variety of items available through our store and no limitations due to min order numbers.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:07pm



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Rory McCabe
BRANCH PRESIDENT