

Meeting opened: 10:39am

Attendance: Wes Garrett (Secretary) – Chair, Rory Thomas McCabe (President), Zack Van Loenhout (NT), Justin Harpley (North Qld), Chris Jones (WA), Matthew West (Tas), Jesse Page (SA), Chris Putnam (NSW), Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator).

Apologies: Mick McDonald (ACT), Glenn Laurie (Vic), Pat Shanahan (South Qld).

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 1st September 2023 be received and adopted”.

Seconded: Dan Thompson

CARRIED

Business Arising out of the Minutes**Meetings with Political Allies**

The Secretary reported that he will be scheduling a meeting with Brad Parker from CASA and invited BCOM to provide any questions they would like answered at that meeting.

Norfolk Island EA

The Secretary reported an update on the ongoing negotiations with NIRC. The NIRC have put a funding proposal to Government, additional detail has been requested from Government. We expect an update on the situation in the next week or two. The next formal meeting has been delayed until October.

ARFFS Workplace Health & Safety Committee

The Secretary reported that a meeting was called to discuss non 24 hour stations with long operational hours. The Constitution was voted on and adopted by the committee without amendment.

The committee resolved that all station uplift design principles are put before the WHS Committee for review and recommendations and that committee members to be provided with copies of floor plans/design drawings for all stations involved in ARFFS Uplift Program. WHS Committee will work with Airservices WHS team to perform full risk analysis of non 24hr ARFF station fatigue issues. Appropriate recline amenities must be included in ARFFS uplift program.

The WHS Coordinator reported on a trial for diesel particulate extraction systems to take place at Avalon ARFFS, ultimately systems will roll out around Australia.

TRA Dispute

The Secretary referred BCOM to correspondence received from Ashurst. The dispute was withdrawn due to delay tactics deployed by Airservices and Ashurst subsequently dispute will be transferred to Federal Court proceedings.

Vehicle Acquisition Project

The Secretary reported that FC Ben Watson SYD has agreed to represent the UFUA as an end user on the Vehicle Acquisition Project.

PPE Procurement Project

The WHS Coordinator reported that he is receiving a good response from female members interested in participating project.

Physical Safety Standard

The Secretary reported that if Airservices provide us with a letter recognizing their obligation to provide DRV in writing, I will ask BCOM will consider allowing the next testing phase of the Physical Safety Standard.

Correspondence

Correspondence was provided in the branch google drive.

Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment were provided in the google drive and ratified by BCOM

General Business

Meeting with Catherine King

The Secretary reported that a meeting has been arranged for us to meet [REDACTED] (DIRD) on Monday 18th September which will be followed up with a meeting with Catherine when she returns from leave. National Branch is coordinating the scheduling of meetings. Primary discussion points are:

- Part 176 PP Government position
- 2019 Senate Inquiry Recommendations Government position
- TRA, access to documents
- Aviation White Paper – ARFFS National Surge Capacity, Secure jobs for rural communities
- Ministers SOE for Airservices
- Labor Policy Platform (Emergency Services)

Hamilton Island FBT Determination

The Secretary reported that the ATO has provided a Fringe Benefits Tax ruling for Hamilton Island transport costs. Luke Sprague has asked if we can advise on the prospects of pursuing this matter. On the basis of the ATO ruling nil prospects of changing their decision.

BCOM Conference 2023

It was agreed by BCOM that the Conference will be deferred until early next year (50th anniversary).

Aviation Green Paper Announced

The Secretary asked BCOM to read recently published Aviation Green Paper to enable BCOM to determine the value of drafting a submission. White paper submission has been forwarded for consideration.

October DCC Meeting

The Secretary discussed rotating BCOM through the DCC meetings. The suggested Agenda items are:

- New Station Build Program
- DRV numbers and configuration
- Cat 6 Staffing additional officer (2+4) earmarked to be in place mid 2023
- EA negotiations start date

The Secretary reported that DCC meetings are paid for by Airservices and advised BCOM to book through Airservices Travel if possible. The Secretary asked BCOM to let him know who is interested in attending these meetings and any other Agenda items.

Next meeting is on 10th October.

Hours of Work Hobart

The Secretary reported that short term crew swapping is back on the agenda. He contacted Airservices on 6th September and advised them that if this continues it will result in a dispute.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:48am



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Rory McCabe
BRANCH PRESIDENT