



Meeting opened: 10:30am ACST

Attendance: Wes Garrett (Secretary) – Chair, Rory Thomas McCabe (President), Zack Van Loenhout (NT), Matthew West (Tas), Jesse Page (SA), Chris Putnam (NSW), Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator) Mick McDonald (ACT), Glenn Laurie (Vic), Pat Shanahan (South Qld), Chris Jones (WA), Justin Harpley (North Qld),

Apologies: Nil

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 15th & 28th September 2023 be received and adopted".

Seconded: Pat Shanahan

Finances, Outsourcing of Bookkeeping

Secretary discussed reorganizing the branch finances by outsourcing our bookkeeping and upgrading financial reporting software to full "Xero" compatibility. The current software, 'filemaker' is well past its used by date (2011) and had not been upgraded [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BCOM also discussed the selection of an new external bookkeeper, four companies provided quotes ranging from \$33,960 through to \$16,000. BCOM ratified the appointment of Cecilia Rosella as our new bookkeeper and the issues that needed to be addressed, mainly related to inaccurate payroll accruals, which have since been externally audited and corrected. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Secretary explained an upcoming change in finance software may cause slight disruptions in membership deductions debit/cycle, BCOM to be aware and advise local members if queries are made.

PFAS Class Action

Wes discussed the possibility of a class action related to health impacts from PFAS, indicating ongoing discussions with Shine lawyers but no current action due to incomplete science. He also mentioned a Macquarie study examining health records of firefighters.

Unions for Yes UFUA support

Chris Jones raised a concern regarding the politics involved in the UFUA National Branch posting about the Yes vote, but no action was needed. Wes and Chris discussed campaign dynamics, expressing frustration with negative tactics, noting the rapid upset it was causing some people on both sides of the debate. Ultimately, the UFUA does not get to vote, our members do and as noted in the FB post we encourage them to exercise their democratic right at the ballot box.

Supporting Colleague, Discussing Fleet and Mental Health

[REDACTED] The decision was met with unanimous agreement. Patrick also encouraged others to reach out to our [REDACTED]. WHS Coord brought up the topic of the PPE acquisition and invited those interested to reach out to him. SVP indicated he was keen to join the working group. Lastly, SVP updated BCOM on the western Sydney vehicle procurement, mentioning that they were all electric vehicles and discussing the potential future vehicles, possibly Euro 6 Diesels. Michael discussed the upcoming rollout of several projects and the potential deployment of new ultra-larges to Western Sydney within an 18 month period. Patrick noted that some of these newer vehicles may be initially stationed at Sunny Coast to work out any kinks before deployment.

Fatigue Management Policies/Amenities

There was also a discussion about the need for adequate rest and relief provisions for crews at non-24 hour stations. BCOM SQ noted upcoming meetings with Mark Scanlan and other ASA managers on this matter. WHS Coord discussed ASA's fatigue management policies and highlighted breaches in their guidelines, particularly in relation to shift workers. He emphasized the importance of managing fatigue effectively, rather than adhering to a blanket rule of no shifts longer than 18 hours. Wes reported positive progress from the Health and Safety Committee meeting, including the decision to establish a subcommittee to address fatigue, amenities and working hours issues. WHS Coord also noted changes in locker room policies to accommodate all genders. Finally.

Next Steps

- Patrick will ask Dan T for a copy of Adelaide's Roster.
- Chris Jones will edit the AI summary/minutes and send it back to Wes.
- Chris Putnam will send a hamper to [REDACTED]
- Patrick will touch base with Dan T before next Thursday to ensure a streamlined approach on fatigue management.

Meeting closed at: 1125 ACST



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Rory McCabe
BRANCH PRESIDENT