



EA UPDATE

16/2/2024

EA UPDATE 007/2024

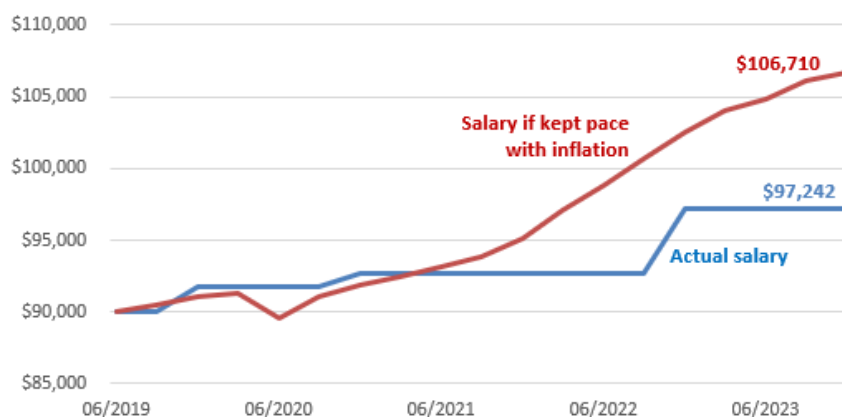
AIRSERVICES CALLS OFF (EA) NEGOTIATIONS

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS:

Enterprise agreement (EA) negotiations scheduled for yesterday, were called off at short notice by Airservices.

The reason given was that Airservices' employee relations team had to attend a hearing in the Fair Work Commission. This was over a breakdown in EA negotiations with corporate staff, represented by the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU). Reports filtering back from those talks are that Airservices is not negotiating seriously or asking that any improvements be 'offset' by giving up hard-won conditions somewhere else in the agreement.

If this approach is repeated in talks over the new ARFFS EA it is hard to see things going smoothly. UFUA members have endured a tough few years, involving pay freezes, and inflation and interest rate hikes that have eroded our real wage, as shown in this graph of the actual leading fire fighter salary and if it had kept pace with the consumer price index (CPI).



Redundancies and retirements brought forward during the pandemic have placed greater demands on the remaining workforce. This has enabled Airservices to claim, in its ACCC application to increase the prices it charges Airlines, that its operating costs will drop 10% by 2026, while it oversees a 13% increase in plane tonnage.

This amounts to a 25% increase in productivity, achieved largely off the backs of the remaining workforce. If Airservices bosses think that after getting the company through the pandemic and helping it achieve huge productivity gains, our members are now going to be shortchanged or asked for offsets...tell 'em they're dreaming.



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At our meeting on January 31st Airservices committed to providing written responses to all the proposals put forward in our log of claims, and to table them at yesterday's meeting. There is one more negotiation session scheduled for Friday of next week (23/2), let's see what they bring. As always, you will be kept up to date via email, Facebook and our website.

In Unity,

Wesley Garrett,
Secretary
UFUA Aviation Branch

