

**Meeting opened: 10:34am ACDT**

Attendance: Wes Garrett (Secretary), Jesse Page (SA), Chris Putnam (NSW), Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator), Mick McDonald (ACT), Patrick Shanahan (South QLD) 10:38, Chris Jones (WA), Zack Van Loenhout (NT) 10:43, Ben Chugg (TAS).

Apologies: Rory Thomas McCabe (President), Glenn Laurie (Vic).

Acknowledgement to Country:

"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture".

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from meetings held on 19/7/2024 were presented and confirmed by BCOM.

Motion: That the minutes be confirmed.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: BCOM NSW

Carried: Unanimous

Correspondence

Correspondence was provided in the branch google drive.

Accounts for Payment

Motion: That the accounts as presented be passed for payment.

Moved: President

Seconded: BCOM SA

Carried: Unanimous

1. Increase in Staffing DEED/Advanced Diploma/TRA:

- Safety work is underway, and a countdown timer has been set up (932 days remaining).

2. CASA Update Policy Proposal Part 176:

- CASA is still contemplating the release of the summary document, hasn't progressed in previous 12 months.

3. Norfolk Island EA Update:

- The CEO has been moved on, but this hasn't expedited the Enterprise Agreement negotiations.
- Sticking points include overtime and on-call hours, impacting the roster and pay rise calculations.
- Norfolk Island plans to cancel EDTO service provision, affecting overtime pay.
- The UFUA opposes being forced to agree to a 48-hour workweek.
- A proposal for Rory and Dan to visit Norfolk Island for a week to resolve the issues was tabled.

Motion: That the BCOM approve all travel expenses required to allow the President and Senior Industrial Officer to travel to Norfolk Island with the objective of finalising EA negotiations.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: BCOM NSW

Carried: Unanimously

4. Airservices Workplace Health and Safety Committee:

- Dan Thompson provided an update on DPM, uniform procurement, and cancer screening initiatives.
- Efforts are focused on getting committee members on project teams and addressing DPM exposure risks.
- HSRs are becoming more active in reporting issues.
- Perth will be the first station to trial DPM source code for exhaust systems.
- BCOM to draft and send HSR David Stevens a letter of commendation expressing our full and unequivocal support for the good work and advocacy that he has provided Perth ARFFS.

5. CASA Advanced Diploma Exemption:

- The exemption has been reissued for a three-year window.
- Preliminary discussions with [REDACTED] indicate they are not opposed to reintroducing the advanced diploma.
- The UFUA will attempt to organise a meeting with ASA and CASA with the aim of finding a common position i.e. reintroducing the Advanced Diploma as the minimum qual for the OIC.

6. Airservices Next Generation Project:

- The Secretary provided an overview of the project, which includes plans for new stations, the potential to open 5 new Stations, and equipment upgrades.
- This is a 10-year plan and represents a significant investment in Airservices' infrastructure.
- Mick McDonald added insights from the recent Airservices board meeting, all proposals have been approved for further detailed investigation.

7. New Airservices CEO:

- An interim CEO is in place for 12 months until a permanent replacement is found.

8. UFUA Merchandise:

- \$10,000 worth of gear with the new 50-year logo has been ordered and will be available on the online store.
- The BCOM discussed promoting and selling the merchandise to avoid it sitting in storage.

9. Gladstone Roster Issue:

- The Secretary, the president, and BCOM SQ met with Naomi Arthur to discuss the Gladstone roster issues.
- The current roster is problematic due to excessive hours and staff shortages.
- The UFUA opposes Airservices' proposed 15-line roster and advocates for a two and four roster with three crews.
- Temporary transfers and expressions of interest will be used to address staffing shortages.

10. Cairns Facilities and Amenities Psychosocial Survey:

- The Cairns HSR Powers were transferred to Rory, and a psychosocial survey and facilities amenities check sheet were conducted.
- Michelle Peterson contacted the UFU within 24 hours to initiate consultation.
- Concerns were raised about staff mistreatment and the lack of facilities.
- Matt Morrissey intervened to address the situation and ensure Cairns staff are treated appropriately.
- The UFU will continue to support Cairns staff and monitor the situation.

11. Salary Sacrifice and Allowances:

- Airservices has not yet responded to inquiries about salary sacrifice.
- The UFU emphasizes that allowances and reimbursements must be paid from the certification date (22nd), with the exception of wage increases.
- Airservices has assured that all entitlements will be paid correctly.

12. Australian Firefighter and Paramedic Superannuation Campaign Invitation –

- BCOM discussed a proposal from National Branch to join a coalition of Unions to campaign for an increase in the super guarantee for firefighters and paramedics.

Motion: That the BCOM join the coalition of Unions campaigning to legislate an increase in superannuation payments to 16.4% and decrease the preservation age for firefighters and paramedics.

Moved: BCOM SQ

Seconded: BCOM NSW

Carried: UNANIMOUSLY

13. Legal/Comcare Matters:

- Secretary provided an update on various legal cases.
- 2 new Industrial matters
- 2 new Comcare referrals.

14. RC#100 Membership Applications:

RC#100 – 11/23 Memberships applications received

1. Mitchel Whitton – Proserpine ARFFS
2. Laura Nitschke - Hamilton Island ARFFS
3. Andrew Wood - Broome ARFFS
4. Matt Austin – Gladstone ARFFS
5. Brady Gibson – Broome ARFFS
6. Aidan Mcintyre – Sydney ARFFS
7. Michael Bleakley – Darwin ARFFS
8. Marty Brown – Darwin ARFFS
9. Theo Brozowski – Hamilton Island

Motion: That the BCOM accept the membership applications of Mitchel Whitton, Laura Nitschke, Matt Austin, Brady Gibson, Aidan McIntyre, Michael Bleakley, Marty Brown, Theo Brozowski and Andrew Wood.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: BCOM NSW

Carried: Unanimously

Motion: That the BCOM upon receiving a membership application and completed direct debit form, agree to provide with 12 months membership without payment of fees on the basis of financial hardship.

Moved: Ben Chugg

Seconded: BCOM NT

Carried: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at: 12:02 ACST



Rory T McCabe
PRESIDENT

