

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE -
SENIOR OFFICERS UNION OF EMPLOYEES

P.O. Box 217
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NEWSLETTER

Issue No.14

9 September 2008

Update on proposed new rules and name change

On 2 September 2008, the Queensland Industrial Registrar approved and registered the proposed Rules.

Also on this date, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission approved the organisation's name change to Queensland Fire and Rescue - Senior Officers Union of Employees.

This is an important and significant step for the organisation, and we look forward to moving forward and operating within a set of modern rules that reflect the current needs of our membership.

This newsletter provides a brief outline of the progress of the applications since State Conference.

RULES

The proposed rules were filed with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on 7 July 2008.

Amendments for compliance and clarification were made to the Rules in consultation with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission Registry, and to correct any formal or clerical errors, in accordance with the Resolution made at State Conference on 10 May 2008. A summary of the changes are below:

- renumbering Rule 2.2 "Registered office" to Rule 2.1;
- incorporation and adoption of the model election rules in the body of the Rules, with consequential changes to numbering of the Rules throughout and incidental changes to other Rules eg old Rule 4.2, new Rules 4.3 and 4.4, and new definitions for Schedule 1;
- clarification and confirmation that incumbent officers will hold office for their full term, and that future elections will be called in September with new officers to commence their term from 1 February following the election (new Rule 4.2);
- clarification that in addition to current eligibility requirements, to be eligible to nominate as a candidate for an officer's position, or to hold office, an officer's membership must not be suspended (new Rule 4.3);
- clarification that a temporary absence will apply if an officer's membership is suspended (new Rule 4.35);
- removal of the ability to suspend an officer from office (as it will be an officer's membership that will be suspended in accordance with Rule 3.6, not their office, which will then trigger a temporary absence in accordance with new Rule 4.3 and new Rule 4.35) (new Rule 4.36);
- clarification that an appeal from the decision of State Council on removal of an officer can only be in accordance with the Industrial Relations Act 1999 (new Rule 4.36);
- renumbering as required, and updating the table of contents.

These changes do not change the substance of the Rules at all and have simply been a response to requests by the Registry. If you have any queries about the changes, please contact the State President, State Secretary or State Treasurer.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the certificate of registration of the new rules and a stamped copy of the new rules.

NAME CHANGE

The application to change the organisation's name to "Queensland Fire and Rescue - Senior Officers Union of Employees" was also filed on 7 July 2008.

Importantly and significantly, no objections to the application were received.

On 2 September 2008, Vice President Linnane of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission approved the application to amend the organisation's name.

Following this, all correspondence and other documents for and on behalf of the organisation from this date, being 2 September 2008, should now reflect the new name.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

With the rule changes and change of name completed, there are several administrative initiatives that can be progressed. These were mentioned in Newsletter No.1, 2008 (Issued 17 January 2008).

The registration of our new name means our new logo can be applied as required. This logo was proposed in Newsletter No.4, 2008 (Issued 21 February 2008), supported by the vast majority of members (refer Newsletter No. 6, 2008 and issued on 7 March 2008) and approved at the State Conference on 10 May 2008 (refer to the Minutes).

Other initiatives that can now be progressed are a website, the development of plaques (as required) and stationery.

The registered office of our industrial organisation (abbreviated to SOU?) is the home address of the State Secretary. Upon the change of office bearers this will require further amendment.



Ron James
STATE SECRETARY
Queensland Fire and Rescue -
Senior Officers Union of Employees