

QUEENSLAND FIRE SERVICE
SENIOR OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Union of Employees
P.O. Box 217
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

7 March 2008

Proposed new rules and logo for "SOU"

Recently the proposed new rules for the SOA (proposed to be amended to SOU) were forwarded for feedback. Similarly, the proposed logo was also forwarded for feedback. All Branches have provided feedback to these proposed rules and logo.

This Newsletter provides a summary of the feedback and the outcomes/actions taken in relation to that feedback.

LOGO

Generally the proposed logo has received strong support across all Branches. One feedback proposed that the logo should include a brass helmet to reflect the proud history of urban fire officers. Whilst this is true, the SOA represents members from three separate streams (urban, rural and scientific) and there is little or no connection between members from two of these streams to brass helmets.

Other than this, there have been no adverse responses to the proposed logo and the proposed logo will be tabled at the State Conference for voting.

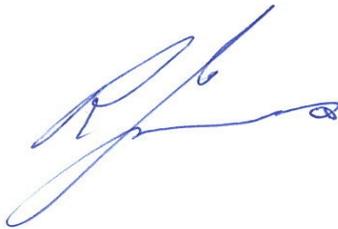
RULES

Some feedback was received and this is described below, with the actions being taken.

Feedback	Action
Eligibility rule uses outdated titles. A number of members raised points in the feedback and highlighted questions about the eligibility rule.	There is no proposed action as the new rules do not propose to change the existing eligibility rule. Therefore no part of the existing eligibility rule (words, grammar etc) can be amended, even if a term is no longer used. Therefore, as the existing rule references some titles that are no longer in use, these will remain. The proposed rules also use the word "Association", and this is referred to in Rules 1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and the definitions. By keeping the existing eligibility rule, the use of the word "Association" must be retained to apply in the context of where it is used in the eligibility rule. Advice received is that retaining the existing rule on eligibility will not affect membership.
Under powers and duties: Request to insert the words to the effect that "the Executive or State Council present the members viewpoints and decisions when representing the Union".	5.6 Powers and duties of the Executive Committee: (a)(i) to be amended to: "implementing resolutions of State Conference and/or State Council, including presenting the members viewpoints and decisions when representing the Union ". 7.2 Powers and duties of State Council: (b) to be amended to: "The resolution of State Council will be in accordance with the operational strategic direction made at State Conference, including presenting the members viewpoints and decisions when representing the union ".

Feedback	Action
Rule 6.1: Typing error with “White Island”.	To be changed to “Whyte Island”.
“Should there be a facility for any possible changing of Branches if regions change?”	12.4 Resolutions: There is no proposed change as this capability already exists with Rule 12.4(c). This rule allows the rules to be simply updated, whether it is branches, or any other change that affects the Union.
Rule 3.12: Membership levies. Question raised as to what is meant by this rule, what level may members be levied and how are members protected against this levy?	There is no proposed change as this rule allows State Council to implement special levies if a situation occurs that requires a special levy to cover extraordinary expenses being incurred by the Union. This is the same as the existing Rule 4.8. The level (amount) will be decided by State Council. Members are protected by powers and duties of Branch Councilors, State Council and State Conference where resolutions are required to be approved.

The proposed rules, with the amendments as above, will be put forward for approval at the next State Conference.



Ron James
STATE SECRETARY
Queensland Fire Service
Senior Officers’ Association –Union of Employees