



**QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE -  
SENIOR OFFICERS UNION OF EMPLOYEES**

P.O. Box 217  
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue No. 6

22 June 2009

### **SOU 'State of Play' June 2009**

#### **2009 Enterprise Agreement**

Negotiations are continuing with the QFRS regarding the 2009 Enterprise Agreement (EA). The SOU can confirm that the Government offer of 4.5%, 4% & 4% remains in place. Members may have recently seen articles in the Courier Mail regarding the Government's decision to reduce wage increases in agreements subsequent to ours.

In the meantime, the SOU is continuing to negotiate other SOU Log of Claim items (as previously outlined by the Executive Committee). Please bear in mind that the Government's position remains that any further claims above the standard offer of 4.5%, 4% & 4% will have to be cost neutral. Full details are being provided to members via regional meetings and teleconferences over the coming period. In the meantime, please contact your regional councillor should you have any questions about the EA process.

#### **QPSU Matter Update**

On the 10 June 2009, members of the SOU Executive attended a conciliation hearing at the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC), in relation to SOU representation of Rural Senior Officers. Unfortunately, due to a technical aspect relating to which section of the Industrial Relations Act the matter was being heard under, the hearing resulted in no tangible outcome. The QPSU has since requested a change to the section of the Act under which the matter will be dealt. We are currently assessing this change, and furthermore considering our options. The SOU position remains the same as previously communicated, in that we believe Rural Seniors can legitimately receive and maintain membership of the SOU.

#### **Senior Officers' Review**

On the 13 April 2009, as a result of a motion passed at the SOU State Conference, the SOU wrote to the QFRS in respect to the status of the Senior Officers' Review. The closing paragraph of this letter included that:

*The SOU requests that the QFRS commit in writing to this process to ensure that a satisfactory solution can be reached in a timely manner. Should the QFRS not commit to the above process the SOU will elevate this matter through the grievance and dispute resolution*

*procedure and will seek the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission's assistance, if required, to ensure that the QFRS acts in accordance with the Agreement.*

The SOU now understands that Director-General Approval has been sought by the QFRS regarding the finalisation and implementation of the review findings. As there are a number of options associated with the review findings, the SOU will re-engage with the QFRS for the purpose of finalising any outstanding aspects. Regional Councillors will be consulted with during this next phase.

### **Correspondence of Note**

**5 June 2009** - Response received from the **Minister regarding SOU concern about the lack of acknowledgement of SOU members** in respect to departmental reporting of the recent MV Pacific Adventurer oil spill. In this response the Minister outlined his appreciation of the “exceptional incident management plus other high level skills of QFRS officers”.

**21 May 2009** – Response received from the **QFRS regarding the Senior Officers’ Review**. See Senior Officers’ Review section of this newsletter.

**7 May 2009** – Response received from the **Director-General (DG) regarding SOU concern regarding the lack of operational representation** involved in transitional arrangements for the new Department of Community Safety. The DG outlined in his response that the transition “will predominately impact on the corporate areas of the former Department of Emergency Services”.

**22 June 2009** – SOU correspondence has been sent to the **DG regarding the recent Departmental proposal to transition all divisional personnel to a new domain, namely @dcs.qld.gov.au** in place of the @emergency.qld.gov.au domain. The SOU have proposed the department would be better placed (on the basis of organisational efficiency and culture principles) by having QFRS divisional personnel operate under a @fire.qld.gov.au domain, QAS divisional personnel operate under a @ambulance.qld.gov.au domain, etc, etc.



Andrew Short AFSM  
**State Secretary**  
**Queensland Fire and Rescue -**  
**Senior Officers Union of Employees**