



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

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## **NEWSLETTER**

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### **SOU Meeting with the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services 18 August 2010**

The President and Secretary of the SOU yesterday met with Minister Neil Roberts and discussed a number of topics important to the SOU. These topics included:

**Senior Officers Review Status.** The SOU thanked the Minister for his support to date and then impressed the importance of continuing the implementation of the Senior Officers Review in line with the EB negotiated and DG approved outcomes. Discussion also centred on the need to provide seniors with the appropriate and necessary tools required to be effective in their roles, both business and operational. The Minister was pleased to hear of the operational benefits that the review has had and reconfirmed his support for the implementation of the agreed Senior Officers Review.

**Shared Services.** The SOU acknowledged the current Shared Services review being undertaken and asked that the improvement opportunities identified through the review be actioned in support of frontline services. The SOU posed that smaller 'agency focused' support teams were more likely to achieve a higher level of effectiveness than the current centralised shared services model. Discussion also included reference to the recent Health Pay issue and the concern that a similar event could potentially impact on QFRS officers and operations.

**Corporate Governance.** The SOU posed that although our members (as senior staff) carry significant financial delegations, they are not in all cases empowered to make low cost financial decisions in certain cases, including travel and the purchase of business and communication tools. The SOU posed that this situation was not ideal and could be seen as illogical from a business effectiveness perspective.

**Ethical Standards Unit (ESU) Matters.** The SOU confirmed our continued desire to see ESU matters dealt with in an expedient and fair manner. This was raised from the perspective of not leaving matters hanging over peoples' heads for an overly extended period, given the associated (extremely negative) individual and family impacts.

**Common Interest Agreement with the QPCOU.** The SOU briefed the Minister on the current Common Interest Agreement the SOU now has in place with the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union (QPCOU). The Minister acknowledged this agreement.

In summary, the meeting was cordial and allowed both the SOU and the Minister to discuss the above matters in a professional and open manner. With that in mind, the SOU will continue to meet regularly with the Minister in support of a continuing well-functioning relationship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', written over a horizontal line.

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