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A B C D Day Retained

ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT UPDATE

Members are advised that the government has now provided an offer to the UFU in response to our claims in the enterprise agreement negotiations.

More questions than answers arise in relation to the offer and clarification is being sought from the Office of the Public Sector (OPS) as a matter of urgency, in order that a full and accurate report can be made to the State Council which is scheduled to meet on Thursday, 17 August 2017, and ultimately to a joint meeting of the State Council and Shop Stewards.

While at first sight there appears to be a substantial offer for increased staff numbers now on the table (subject to clarification), the terms in which the offer is couched and the conditions placed on it, are *highly unlikely* to be acceptable to members.

As members are aware the SAMFS minimum riding configuration and manning numbers are set out in the Enterprise Agreement and historically this has been the case to ensure safe working practices are maintained and to prevent any erosion.

This offer *requires* that any additional full-time equivalent staffing would be only progressed *outside* of the Enterprise Agreement so that the government has “managerial prerogative” on it. This means of course there is no guarantee they’re delivered...or maintained.

The offer appears focussed on reducing the SAMFS overtime bill rather than for example, increasing numbers in OTR in order that you can access your leave, or so you can train in paid time or in an uninterrupted manner.

Issues raised by the UFU in relation to Pt Pirie and Mt Gambier stations are not addressed *at all*.

It is also concerning that a number of matters are included in the offer which were not ever raised or discussed in the negotiations and for which no detail is available, yet we would be required to “sign up” for it as part of the ‘package’.

The Union is currently seeking further clarification of the offer and ensuring that the OPS/government understand why this offer is likely to be so provocative to UFU members who have largely put aside personal interests for the sake of a safer, more professional SAMFS. A comprehensive report will be provided once more detail is clear.

Meanwhile campaign materials are being distributed to stations ready in the event further discussion is futile.

Please keep your powder dry and do NOT deploy them until advised to do so.

Members will be kept informed of any progress.

Michael Vanderjeugd

UFU President