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A B C D Day Retained

ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT UPDATE

The UFU yesterday (22/8) met with the Minister for Emergency Services Peter Malinauskas, the SAMFS and the Office for the Public Sector (OPS) to discuss the contentious Government offer for our new Enterprise Agreement (EA), in more detail.

Together with Mick Vander Jeugd, Neil Mangelsdorf and Max Adlam, I attended along with the SAMFS Chief Greg Crossman and Deputy Chief Michael Morgan and ministerial and OPS staff.

The main areas for resolution remain resourcing (our claims for proper access to training, to our leave entitlements, for health and fitness, for Marine, Pt Pirie, and Mt Gambier etc.), appropriate support and protection of firefighters injured at work, and the inclusion of these matters in the EA and for the workers compensation commitment, in our Award.

The matter of wage increases during the period of the EA will be addressed once we have a satisfactory offer on the resourcing of the SAMFS.

While discussions which went for 3 hours were encouraging, the Minister made it clear that he is not authorised to make a renewed offer without Cabinet authority and this will take more time – he needs costings for any new offer which would then have to be taken to and considered by the Cabinet.

The UFU stressed that members require us to reach a resolution which provides for a more professional and safe place to work as a matter of urgency. The deadline of 21 August 2017 has already been extended to allow for the meeting with the Minister on 22 August.

Further delay in the absence of progress is unlikely to be considered favourably.

The Minister said he would come back to the UFU by midday on 23 August to advise how much more time he would need to look at a revised offer and to seek authority from Cabinet.

While I am heartened by the Minister's approach, he was very clear and we all understand there are no guarantees of any increase in the offer.

So, in our conversation today, I have advised the Minister that while I am prepared to recommend a further extension of the deadline, it is only to Friday 8 September 2017.

If there is no satisfactory offer made by that date which I believe I can put to the State Council and Shop Stewards for consideration, I will advise members of the date and time for the commencement of the UFUSA campaign of action, as authorised by State Council and Shop Stewards, to fight to achieve our fair and reasonable objectives for firefighters.

Members will be kept informed of any developments.

Greg Northcott
Secretary