



WORD BACK

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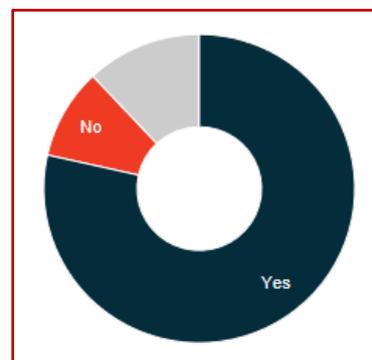
A B C D Day Retained

ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT OVERWHELMINGLY ACCEPTED

The vote on the new Enterprise Agreement, which closed at 1800 hours today, has resulted in an *overwhelming* acceptance of the government's offer.

A gratifying almost 90% of those eligible to vote participated in the ballot on the proposed South Australian Metropolitan Enterprise Agreement 2017, indicating a high level of interest in this matter by you.

In a result of 878 votes in favour, to 106 votes against accepting the offer (132 abstained), firefighters have clearly demonstrated that we care about our injured work colleagues, about our professionalism, training and safety and we are concerned about the resourcing of our Fire Service, including in regional SA and for strategically building our maritime capability.



The hard work though, isn't over with the closing of the ballot; in reality, it has just begun. There is much ahead of us to do if we are to ensure the promise of this EA is realised and built upon.

For example, all necessary steps will be taken with the Office for the Public Service (OPS), as a priority, to make application to the SA Employment Tribunal for the certification of the new EA.

The date of certification will be the operative date for those matters where a date is not otherwise specified, such as the new Senior Firefighter Level 2 increment, unpaid parental leave superannuation insurance and the Retained Firefighter increased benefits including to the annual retainer, the minimum callout payment, training time, annual and sick leave.

We will be vigorously pursuing and anticipate certification of the EA before Xmas 2017.

The UFU will also immediately commence work with the OPS on the application for a variation to the SAMFS Firefighters' Award to recognise the exemption of firefighters from the cut off provisions in the *Return To Work* legislation.

It is anticipated that this consent application will be made by the parties on or by 13 December 2017.

The increased manning numbers will be introduced as quickly as possible in the life of the EA, with some (eg Engineering Department) already in place.

The new SAMFS Health and Wellbeing Unit has been established in anticipation, with programs being developed in consultation between the UFU and the SAMFS which will positively address key issues of concern which currently confront us, from functional fitness programs to offering screening early for presumptive cancers.

Preparation for the mid-term reviews of the productivity and efficiency measures has already begun, with meetings with the SAMFS scheduled in order that the first 1.6% wage increase due on 1 January 2018 will be followed by a further increase on 1 July 2018.

As provided in the Terms of Offer for the Agreement, all productivity and efficiency reviews undertaken will be based on the consultative model, with any changes *only* implemented by agreement between the parties.

The new Personal Protective Clothing is being rolled out and as summer is imminent the upgrade of Fire Ground Welfare policies, procedures and Rehabilitation Pods where required, will be welcome.

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the ballot and for the overwhelming result.

If you have any queries or concerns or would like to discuss any of the above further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Industrial Officer Max Adlam on 0883527211.

Thank you all for your ongoing solidarity and support.

Greg Northcott
Secretary