



# WORD BACK

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No.32/2018  
12 November 2018

A  B  C  D  Day  Retained

## Acting Up to Station Officer

Further to Wordback No 31, the UFU invited the Chief Officer to meet to discuss the concerns expressed by our State Council in relation to training currently provided to Senior Firefighters in order to confidently and safely act up to the position of Station Officer. That meeting occurred today at 10:50 hours at HQ.

The UFU State Councillors present at the meeting, reiterated that the union is not opposed to act ups but that the concerns which led to the resolution of last week's meeting of the UFUSA State Council, set out in the last Wordback, require us to declare our position.

Those concerns arise from feedback from members being required to pick up a critical role with the significant responsibility of a Station Officer, likely as an incident controller, potentially at a major incident, without the necessary exposure to the relevant knowledge and skills.

The State Council unanimously shares those concerns and strongly believes it is important to record our position and to cease our endorsement of a practice which falls short.

The parties agreed today that there are indeed gaps in the current training however MFS management stated that they believe the current practice is both suitable and safe.

We respectfully disagree.

The UFU has advised the Chief Officer that the decision as to whether the MFS is prepared to accept the risk involved, is a matter for him as the PCBU (person conducting the business or undertaking as defined in the *WHS Act 2012*).

The Chief Officer was informed that should the MFS decide to continue the current practice of acting up, the UFU does not intend to run an industrial campaign. There are no bans in place and we will accept the Chief Officer's decision while not supporting it.

The UFU and the MFS have agreed that we will continue to work together on the skills gap analysis, the working party and on a longer-term resolution. Consultation with the UFU membership affected will occur prior to any changes being agreed, starting at the AGM on 30 November 2018.

In the meantime, the UFU has placed our concerns firmly on the record, highlighted the issues which will be prioritised for resolution and we will remain hopeful that there are no incidents which vindicate our concerns.

Thank you to all members who took the trouble to respond and let us know your views and we are heartened that the feedback has been overwhelmingly supportive of our resolution.

Members are encouraged to complete HIRMS and other reports as appropriate, where issues arise, and we'd appreciate it if you would send us a copy to the union office as well please.

As per the previous Wordback, if you'd like to discuss this matter with State Councillors, you can contact:

**Shaun Goad**                    **0439 849 539**                    **Michael Riggs**                    **0400 211 325**

**Jesse Virgo**                    **0417 719 068**                    **Steve Smithson**                    **0417 084 829**

You can also direct queries and comment by email to us [info@ufusa.com.au](mailto:info@ufusa.com.au)

**UFU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY 30 November 2018 (C shift)**  
**1030 hours**

**UFUSA Office 148 South Road Torrensville SA**

The AGM Agenda includes Financial Reports, update on the Leading Senior Firefighter Act Ups, Shop Stewards Report, PPC report and much more, so come along and find out about what's going on and have some input in the direction of your union. Members of the State Council and Shop Stewards will be present to address your issues and join in the conversation about our future direction.

All members including retired members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Members voted overwhelmingly for a change in our union so please do come along, participate and stay for a chat over lunch as the meeting will be followed by a BBQ lunch at 1230 hours.

Please RSVP on 83527211 or to [info@ufusa.com.au](mailto:info@ufusa.com.au) if you can come.

**Don't forget – PFAS Blood Testing**

***Please act now!***

**Contact Steve Pavlich, Clara Cipriani or your UFU**

In solidarity

**Max Adlam**

**UFU Secretary**