

## **UFUA BRANCH ELECTIONS**

In preparation for all of the recent UFUA Branch elections it became apparent that under the stipulated timeframes in the UFUA Rules, the new Australian Post delivery services timeframes would not allow enough time for the ballot material to be received and returned by the voters. As a result the UFUA notified the AEC of the issue and the AEC took action in accordance with its powers to vary the ballot timetable to ensure sufficient time for the voters to receive and return their ballot papers.

The AEC has recorded the following in a post-election report:

*Rules difficult to apply/interpret: Rule 27 (10) determines the period that the ballot is open for, which is 21 April to 7 May. This is insufficient time for members to receive and post ballot papers back prior to close of the ballot. Recommend the ballot period be extended to a minimum of 3 weeks.*

The UFUA has responded to the AEC including the following:

*We note that the AEC Post-Election Report makes the following comment regarding Rule 27(10) of the Rules of the United Firefighters' Union of Australia (UFUA):*

*"Rule 27 (10) determines the period that the ballot is open for, which is 21 April to 7 May. This is insufficient time for members to receive and post ballot papers back prior to close of the ballot.*

*Recommend the ballot period be extended to a minimum of 3 weeks."*

*Any changes to the UFUA Rules must be made in accordance with Rule 49.*

*The next branch elections are in 3 years, prior to those elections, the Union will seek an amendment to Rule 27(10)(e), in accordance with Rule 49, that the ballot period is extended for a minimum of 3 weeks as the AEC recommended.*

*Please accept this response on behalf of all UFUA Branches and the UFUA in relation to any adverse report regarding Rule 27/10.*

The post-election report is available upon a member's request from the UFUA or the AEC