



IN BRIEF



NSW pay rise

The Union's New South Wales Branch has won a pay rise of 2.5 percent for permanent and retained firefighters, after the NSW Industrial Relations Commission handed down six month interim awards. The increase was secured after an intense campaign and without any trade off in conditions. "This is an important step in achieving a fair outcome for all NSW firefighters," says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall. The Full Bench of the Commission will arbitrate new awards and hearings will begin later this year.



Join the discussion

The UFUA Women's Network Forum is open to all UFUA members to discuss issues and exchange ideas. It's on the national website at <http://ufua.asn.au>, with a link on the front page.

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IMAGE: MATT HAYES, FIRECALL

After 500 Queensland firefighters marched on Parliament House in Brisbane, the State Government is now really under the pump. The Queensland Branch has gone to the state's Industrial Relations Commission to resolve its dispute with the Fire and Rescue Service about a job evaluation exercise. However, the Blich Government has refused to discuss a wage rise for all Queensland firefighters. "Something has got to give soon," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "And it won't be our members in Queensland!"

Tas Salary & Super Fix

It took a season of bans, but the standoff in Tasmania over Super entitlements and a new agreement is finally over

The Tasmanian Government has backed down in its dispute with the state's firefighters. "When Tasmanian Branch members applied the pressure, it was only going to be a matter of time before the Government caved in," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall.

The Lennon Government had refused to honour an election commitment over firefighter pay relativities, while a muck-up following the State Fire Commission Super Fund merger stayed firmly in its 'too hard' basket.

But in early March, after bans began to bite and firefighters crowded into Parliament House in Hobart to express their frustration, Premier Paul Lennon changed his tune. He agreed that discussions would consider national firefighter's pay relativities more closely - and that his Government would take a 'no disadvantage' approach to resolve the Super problem.

"It's a great result for Tasmanian firefighters," says Peter Marshall. "Members have now lifted their bans and negotiations are back on track."

WA LOG OF CLAIMS

With the WA firefighters industrial Agreement due to expire next month, the WA Branch has finalised and lodged a new log of claims. "Let's hope the Fire and Emergency Services Authority will get down to tin tacks immediately," says Peter Marshall. "Our members in the West are not prepared to let this round drag on."