



## IN BRIEF



### Done deeds

EB rounds have been successfully concluded in the ACT and Tasmania. "ACT firefighters have an agreement and common law deed that protects Union rights and makes them the wages pacesetter," says Peter Marshall. "Tasmanian Members have also scored a win with a 14% pay rise over three years."



MATT HAYES

### Aviation Branch log

The UFUA Aviation Branch new log of claims for Air Services Australia Members includes pay increases of 22% over the life of the Agreement, the re-inclusion of the 10/14 roster principles and the employer superannuation contribution increased to 15.4%.

### Australian Firefighter

The next edition of The Australian Firefighter Magazine will be out soon. "Don't miss out - pick up a copy at work or download it from the Union website," says Peter Marshall.

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# Rocky wage road

Some state governments are digging in over demands by firefighters for a fair wage increase and reward for effort

Facing increasingly hostile Governments, firefighters are toughing it out in EB campaigns across a number of states. "We're in a difficult situation," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "State Governments are trying to keep wage increases below inflation and that's just not realistic."

In NSW, the hard fought campaign has moved to the Courts with the start of the arbitrated 'Special Wage Case'. The NSW Branch is pushing for an increase of 8% p.a. across three years (4% p.a. for inflation and 4%

p.a. for extra responsibilities) while the Government is offering a 2.5% p.a.

In Queensland, negotiations over a new agreement bogged down after the Government decided to ignore advice from its own consultant that firefighters and station officers are underpaid. "Unfortunately, the Qld Industrial Commission sided with the Government," says Peter Marshall. "So the Branch is appealing and Members and their families are lobbying MPs and the ALP to get the Government to see sense."

## INTO THE RING

In Western and South Australia, bargaining rounds are off and running. After the WA Branch lodged a 25 point log of claims, the Authority responded with a below-par wage offer and a demand that 11 entitlements be stripped from the Agreement. "It looks like the gloves will soon be off in the west," says Peter Marshall. The SA Branch log of claims includes a 6.7% p.a. increase across three years, 7 weeks paid paternity leave and

protection against the SA WorkCover cuts. The Government response is due within four weeks.

In Victoria, the MFB is refusing to sign-off a new collective agreement for Assistant Chief Fire Officers (ACFOs). "Despite outstanding issues being settled, and the MFB indicating agreement has been reached, Management has reneged," says Peter Marshall. "In fact they're trying-on a secret pay offer with substandard conditions attached. Members are ignoring this dirty money deal."