



IN BRIEF



SA settles

South Australian firefighters have voted to accept a 15% / three year pay rise offer from the State Government. Retained firefighters will be part of the Agreement for the first time, putting them on parity with the permanent firefighters' hourly rate.



WA to vote

West Australian firefighters are due to vote on a new Agreement next month. On offer is an effective pay increase of 15.5% across the three year agreement, says UFUA Branch Secretary Dave Bowers.



Thank You

The Union's Victoria Branch has created a new website to pass on thanks to the state's firefighters who have worked so hard to protect those threatened by the tragic bushfires. Find it at <http://thankyoufires.com>

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LAST YEAR, QUEENSLAND FIREFIGHTERS TOOK TO THE STREETS IN PURSUIT OF A FAIR WAGE DEAL/MATT HAYES

Breakthrough

UFUA members in Queensland express solid support for a proposal to end their pay and conditions dispute

Nearly three quarters of UFU Queensland members have voted to accept the State Government's offer to settle the long - and hard fought - fair wage campaign. The vote means Queensland firefighters will receive wage increases of between 3% and just over 7%, depending on rank.

"This government offer shows what's possible when Members take the fight right up to the politicians," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "The campaign really began to bite after Union pressure saw more and more Queensland Labor Party MPs offer their support to firefighters. The

Government finally got the message and came up with a better offer."

The campaign was tough going and Queensland Branch Secretary Mark Walker says, "The dollar figure does provide alignment with Public Sector classifications in line with our claim - although not at the pay points we are after for some ranks."

The 18 month campaign saw hundreds of firefighters march on State Parliament, a state-wide community campaign and the overwhelmingly rejection of an initial government offer in an Industrial Commission ordered ballot.

AVIATION MEMBERS VOTE

Aviation Branch firefighters are to vote on a final draft of a new ASA / ARFF Collective Agreement. The proposal is for a four year agreement with a 4.3% salary increase p.a. and a \$1500 sign-on bonus. Members will receive an increase every 6 months across the life of the agreement. "Tying down a fair and equitable agreement will become more difficult

as the impact of the global economic meltdown spreads," says Peter Marshall. "The Aviation Branch is to be congratulated on securing solid improvements with this CA." The draft also includes a 1% increase p.a. – rising to 4% over the life of the Agreement – on the base salary for all Station Officers and Fire Commanders.