



IN BRIEF



Taste of success

A 34% increase in wages and a 5.5% gain in firefighter positions is the result across Dave Bowers' first term as WA Branch Secretary. "We're servicing Members better than ever. I enjoy my job immensely and will run for another term," says Dave.



No arbitration

Dave Bowers says the EBA campaign was nasty and protracted. "With the economic downturn and a state election, we wanted to avoid arbitration. The Government knew we meant business, so we got the result."



New HQ

The WA Branch has a new office with the Union's purchase of the former North Perth fire station. It is heritage listed and has been fully restored.

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The WA Branch record over three years – solid wage increases and a significant boost in firefighter numbers

Pic: Samantha Brewer, WA

15.5 over three

In WA, the UFU and firefighters achieve major gains with a new agreement, big wage increases and conditions maintained

WA firefighters have overwhelmingly endorsed a new industrial agreement. "Our Members will get a 15.5% increase over three years," says WA Branch Secretary, Dave Bowers. "That's the compounded increase of a 14.7% gain across the life of the agreement."

UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall says the result confirms that WA Branch Members are in good hands. "For example, just look at how the Senior Firefighter rate has improved across the WA team's current term – from \$56,000 to \$77,800 a year. The UFUA

is immensely proud of all that the WA Branch has done for the membership."

In the new EBA, the first aid allowance has been rolled into the total rate of pay. WA firefighters will now receive it all year round (including leave periods) and in superannuation calculations as well.

"We also achieved an 'other duties' allowance boost," says Dave Bowers. "If you go off shift to work into certain categories of day work, you'll get an additional \$95 a week across the life of this agreement."

BIG TURNOUT – GREAT RESULT

Dave Bowers is very pleased with Members' support for the new agreement. "There were 742 valid votes cast, with 643 voting in favour of the agreement. That's a very high turnout and a solid expression of support for the Branch's efforts in negotiating this EBA for our members." Despite the downturn in the economy, the Union has been able to keep the status quo clause in the new agreement. "This is an important thing in my book," says Dave Bowers. "It means any change in work practices must be by agreement, or the status quo will remain."

Peter Marshall says this shows the strength of the UFUA's WA Branch. "Dave Bowers and his team can deliver; that's something Members can be confident about."