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## ARBITRATION NEWSLETTER

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### In This Issue

“Further arbitration dates set”

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As previously reported the first stage of QIRC work inspections were conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Whyte Island, Brisbane Firecom and Kangaroo Point Cliffs.

The first hearing dates were on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013 where a number of government and QFRS witnesses gave evidence. The next hearing dates set down by the QIRC are on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

We expect those dates to include further government and QFRS witnesses before your union commences to lead our evidence.

QIRC has yet to programme any further dates and we anticipate more days will be needed to fully present our witnesses and arguments.

We are currently preparing material for the next dates and arranging for further inspections to be conducted.

Our case has progressed alongside the ambulance officers’ arbitration which has a similar timetable and also features extensive attacks by the Department on their employment conditions.

So far we have not had to battle some of the more recently publicised government skulduggery being inflicted on thousands of other public sector workers. Their arbitration progress has been stymied by government representatives insisting on hearing dates being vacated to allow complicated legal arguments be conducted.

We have been watching the conduct of government representatives very closely in those matters and remaining vigilant.

Despite the spin and propaganda which is occasionally squeezed out by government, the facts are they are trying every trick in the book to restrict the QIRC from getting on with hearing the public sector union’s arguments.

We are in a different position as our arbitration dates are underway. I am impressed by the information provided by members who have contributed statements of evidence and also by the work demonstrations displayed by members at the inspections.

We look forward to the next hearing dates and progressing our arguments.

**John Oliver**  
**State Secretary**

