

Bulletin No: 21

9 December 2013

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

NEW CLIMATE COUNCIL BUSHFIRE REPORT RELEASED TODAY RELIES ON UFUA RESEARCH FORECASTING A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The United Firefighters Union of Australia continues to be at the forefront of the discussion on preparedness for climate change with a new report released by the Climate Council today.

The Climate Council report "*Be Prepared: Climate Change and the Australian Bushfire Threat*" released today found that climate change is already increasing the risk of bushfires and that Australia was "very likely" to experience an increased number of extreme fire danger days in the future.

The Climate Council report specifically relies upon an earlier UFUA commissioned report that detailed a substantial increase in firefighter numbers was needed across Australia in order to meet the challenges of extreme weather events including the predicted increase in extreme fire danger days and intensity of bushfires.

The UFUA commissioned National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) report "*Firefighters and Climate Change: The human resources dimension of adapting to climate change*" was provided earlier this year as part of the UFUA comprehensive submission to the Senate Inquiry into Recent Trends and Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events. The final report of the eight-month Senate Inquiry specifically referenced the UFUA comprehensive submission and the evidence of National Secretary Peter Marshall when he appeared before the Committee.

The NIEIR report forecasted up to 80 percent more firefighters would be needed across Australia by 2030 when population growth and the impact of climate change was taken into account.

The Climate Council report released today relies heavily on the UFUA commissioned NIEIR report in the chapter setting out the implications of increasing fire activity.

The Climate Council had previously notified the UFUA of the report and its pending release acknowledging the significance of the UFUA's research on the issue of preparedness for the implications of climate change.

Strength in Unity

READ OUT AT MUSTER AND PIN ON NOTICE BOARD
Authorised by National Secretary Peter Marshall