

**Notes regarding proposed alterations to the rules of the United Firefighters' Union of Australia  
(R2022/33)**

**1) Alterations under the Scheme**

My approach to the alterations facilitating the reconstitution of the Branch has been with the intent of eventually harmonising relations with the UFUQ or at least putting the Branch in the best possible position to achieve that.

The historical position was that members who were financial members of the UFUQ were considered to be, and were treated as, financial members of the Branch. If that were not so it will be much more difficult to convince members to remain members. Accordingly, I consider that the alterations will assist in enabling the Branch to function and operate effectively.

During the Court proceedings some potential rule alterations were canvassed. The rule alterations I have proposed reflect my consideration of those discussions.

I hope and expect that the alterations will assist in convincing the UFUQ to return to the previous or similar arrangements.

Where I have proposed these alterations as alterations to the general rules of the UFUA I have done so in part because an alteration to the Queensland Branch Rules in Schedule 3 only could create inconsistencies with the UFUA rules, contrary to rule 86(2).

In relation to proposed alterations to rule 10, I consider this will aid in communicating with members and encourage their democratic participation in the affairs of the Branch. It is also reflective of current modes of communication. I am informed this alteration will be supported by the National Executive.

In relation to the proposed alteration to rule 35, this rule historically included levies and fines, but this was inadvertently omitted in the draft considered and adopted by the National Committee of Management in 2020. I have had regard to the intention of the National union to rectify this as stated by the National Executive. I also have adopted it to ensure consistency with the other proposed alterations. Further, the rules of the UFUQ require its members to have paid all subscriptions levies and fines, and it would be inconsistent with the financial status of a member of the UFUQ if different criteria applied to the Branch or Union.

I do not believe that the alterations will adversely affect the position of the Branch to be representative of and accountable to its members or affect the participation of members in the affairs of the Branch or the encouragement of the democratic functioning of the Branch. I consider that the existing rules of the UFUA already adequately achieve those desirable features.

**2) Proposed rule 7(5)**

This is designed to remove doubt about members who were wrongly removed from the list by the former officers of the Branch (the section 167 proceeding only dealt with four particular members).

**3) Proposed rule 80(2)**

This sub-rule will update the rules to reflect current practices and methods of payments of subscriptions. It will also align with the methods of payment in the UFUQ rules.

**4) Rule 80(3)**

This sub-rule is intended to formalise the previous practice and understanding whereby if a member was paying subscriptions to the UFUQ or another associated body in another State he/she was treated as a financial member of the Branch.

**5) Proposed rule 89A**

These rules are designed to reconstitute the Branch Committee of Management with a smaller than previous number as my preliminary contact with members has led me to the view that it may be initially difficult to encourage the number of members previously on the committee to stand for office because of the upheaval and uncertainty over the past few years.

I consider that this will provide a sound base for the branch to go forward and build upon.

**6) Schedule 5**

I have addressed the lack of a branch rule specifying the number of delegates to NCOM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Marshall', written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Gavin Marshall