



BULLETIN

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15 November 2022

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE Canberra 9th – 11th November 2022

A highly successful National Committee of Management meeting took place last week in Canberra, attended by elected delegates of the United Firefighters Union of Australia from the ACT, Victoria, Tasmania, Aviation, South Australia, & Western Australia. Pending elections for a new Branch Committee in Queensland, the Court Appointed Administrator was also in attendance.

The 2022 NCOM meeting was hosted by the UFUA ACT Branch and coincided with a very well attended official opening of the ACT Branch/National Branch office in Kingston, ACT.

The NCOM meeting was also an opportunity for the Union to acknowledge the outstanding contribution that previous National Secretary Peter Marshall provided over his 20 years in the role.

Key Highlights

The meeting ran over three days and comprised of meetings for the NCOM, the National Executive and Occupation Health and Safety delegates, as well as guest presentations. Some of the key speakers were:

- Lara Watson, the ACTU Indigenous Officer spoke via video link from Brisbane on 'Voice Treaty and Truth'
- Geoff Scott, a Wiradjuri man with more than thirty years working in Aboriginal Affairs, discussed the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- Alex Forrest, IAFF Canadian Trustee and President of the United Firefighters of Winnipeg, Peter Marshall (VIC), and Greg McConville (Nat Sec) presented

on the 'WHO IARC Announcement and Presumptive Cancer Legislation Work Program'.

- A 'Retrospective on the Foundation of the UFU' was conducted featuring Rod Knowles and Wayne Berry (offices held), both instrumental in the formation of the UFUA.
- Greg McConville spoke on Electric Vehicles and Battery Energy Storage Systems
- Mick Tisbury, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire and Rescue Victoria
Professor Mark Taylor, Macquarie University, Lead Academic PFAS Blood study
Professor Deborah Glass, Monash University, PFAS Firefighter Study combined to deliver content on 'PFAS: Achievements and Next Steps', including the forthcoming PFAS firefighter Study
- Wattie Watson, the Secretary for New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union spoke on conditions and the industrial dispute in New Zealand, via video link.

The following motions and resolutions were passed:

Indigenous Partnership Framework: The National Executive adopts the *National framework on engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* as its policy. A link to the Indigenous engagement framework can be found here <https://www.ufua.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/National-framework-on-engagement-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Peoples.pdf>

Electric Vehicles and BESS: The National Executive adopts the *Electric Vehicles and BESS policy* recommendations. A copy of the approved policy recommendations can be viewed here <https://www.ufua.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/UFU-NCOM-ELECTRIC-VEHICLES-POLICY-RECS-FINAL.pdf>

PFAS and Mick Tisbury Appointment: In recognition of his internationally leading expertise, the NCOM appointed Mick Tisbury as Honorary National expert representative on PFAS related issues and endorses his use as an expert by Branches in WHS issue resolution processes.

Aviation Solidarity Motion: NCOM has resolved to support the industrial struggle of the Aviation Branch by resisting any requests made by Airservices to backfill and/or accept first responder status on airports.”

PTSI and Psychosocial: NCOM endorsed Jeremy Patterson of the Tasmania Branch to gather information on Fire Services around Australia and their implementation of the recommendations of *'The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders'* senate inquiry.

Updating the UFUA PFAS Policy: NCOM amended the PFAS policy as follows: references to 'MFB' are replaced with 'FRV'; and any obligation to have the UFUA develop an endorsed foams list is removed.

Significantly, every decision made by NCOM was unanimous, reflecting the quality of discussion and the solidarity among the delegates

Coinciding with the NCOM meeting, a new UFUA Facebook page has been launched, and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/UFUANational>

In coming weeks we will also release some video excerpts of the NCOM meeting, including guest speakers and observations of delegates. These videos will be available on the UFUA website which can be found at www.ufua.asn.au

The 2022 NCOM meeting was well attended and allowed for the participation of the representatives of each Branch. A wide variety of expertise was available to add to the discussion and knowledge of critical subjects.

Keep your eyes open for the next UFUA National Bulletin which will address some important developments on firefighter presumptive cancer legislation.

Thank you to all who attended and made the event a success.

Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville