



Fire & Rescue NSW

File Ref. No: FRN18/56
TRIM Ref. No: D18/2537

Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigade Employees' Union
1 - 7 Belmore Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

12 January 2018

Dear Mr Drury,

Re: Reduction in Retained number for the Royal Easter Show

I write to inform you of changes to FRNSW requirements at the Royal Easter Show (the Show).

As set out to FRNSW by the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) in December 2017, it has been determined that RAS no longer have a need for the presence of a complete operational crew at the Show. Rather, they are only seeking to engage 1 Captain and a Retained Firefighter to staff the watch room at the Show for its full duration. Their purpose will be to facilitate initial liaison and advice as required, not as first responders in an operational sense.

RAS has indicated that the change has come about after receiving private external advice around all safety risks and subsequently undertook various upgrades to their systems and procedures, thereby reducing potential risks and the need for FRNSW services.

As you would be aware, this is a fee for service arrangement and as such, needs are set by the RAS in this context. Overall, the RAS indicated that base requirements from the risk analysis undertaken showed that even the above-mentioned level of FRNSW presence was not essential but desired as an added safety measure.

Please note that an advertisement will be released in the coming Commissioner Orders for 2 groups of 1 Captain and 1 Retained Firefighter. They will alternate in staffing the watch room at the Show from 22 March to 3 April 2018 across day (0630 – 1430), afternoon (1430 – 2230) and night (2230 – 0630) shifts for the duration.

Yours sincerely

Adam Dewberry
A/Chief Superintendent Recruitment & Staffing





20 February 2018

The Hon. Troy Grant MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Emergency Services

By facsimile: (02) 9339 5536

Dear Minister,

Re: Firefighting services at the 2018 Royal Easter Show

I write to seek your urgent intervention as Minister for Emergency Services to ensure the maintenance of FRNSW firefighting services at this year's Royal Easter Show.

FRNSW last month advised, without warning, that the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) had commissioned its own review of firefighting arrangements at the Royal Easter Show and had consequently decided that it no longer required a fully staffed and operational FRNSW fire station within the showgrounds. The letter from FRNSW (attached) appears entirely comfortable with the proposition that it has no say or role to play in determining firefighting requirements at a major public event like the Easter Show. The suggestion that public safety and emergency service requirements should be determined by the "client" (in this case the RAS) and not by the Government and relevant emergency services is deeply disturbing.

The Minister for Police should not and would not allow the RAS to dictate the policing arrangements for a two week event attended by over 850,000 citizens which the RAS itself describes as "Australia's largest", and it is no more appropriate for the Minister for Emergency Services to allow the RAS to do so over firefighting services.

The full wage bill for the provision of 24/7 retained firefighting crews for the entire fortnight is approximately \$80,000. The staffing reduction proposed by the RAS will see this cut to approximately \$30,000, thereby delivering a \$50,000 saving for the RAS. That equates to only \$3,500 per day, or less than 100 Show ticket sales per day.

If the NSW Government no longer requires the RAS to pay for an 24/7 operational fire crew at "Australia's largest event" then it should meet the \$50,000 cost required to do so itself so that the status quo can be maintained without controversy or disruption this year, and to allow proper consultation between the Union, FRNSW, RAS and NSW Government prior to the 2019 Show.

I thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this matter and earliest possible response.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary

Fire Brigade Employees' Union of New South Wales

1-7 Belmore Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

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File Ref. No: FRN18/56
TRIM Ref. No: D18/

Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigade Employees' Union
1 - 7 Belmore Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

23 February 2018

Dear Mr Drury,

Re: Retained Firefighters at the Royal Easter Show

I write to inform you of changes to the requirements upon Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in relation to the Royal Easter Show (the Show) for 2018, following discussions at your office on 25 January 2018 and the FRNSW initial letter dated 12 January 2018.

The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) has determined that RAS no longer has a need for the presence of a complete operational crew at the Show. Rather, they are only seeking to engage one Captain and one Retained Firefighter to staff the watch room at the Show for its full duration. Their purpose will be to facilitate initial liaison and advice as required, not as first responders for any incident that may occur.

In recent years the RAS has significantly improved its operational procedures. There are strict measures in place for any areas of temporary accommodation including the installation of smoke alarms and restriction on cooking and heating facilities. The RAS provides security to monitor and ensure these procedures are maintained throughout the show.

RAS has indicated that the change has come about after receiving an independent and comprehensive review and advice on the Show's operations, including all safety risks and has subsequently undertaken various upgrades to their systems and procedures. This has significantly reduced risk and therefore reduced the requirement upon FRNSW to provide service.

Prior to the commencement of and during the Show the FRNSW compliance unit will attend the Show and conduct compliance inspections. Local stations will attend the Show to review and update the pre-incident planning (PIP) as required.

As you would be aware, this is a fee for service arrangement and as such, needs are set by the RAS and not FRNSW. Overall, the RAS indicated that base requirements from the risk analysis undertaken showed that even the above-mentioned level of FRNSW presence was not essential but desired as an added safety measure. As a not for profit organisation, any savings the RAS realises is reinvested into agricultural and regional communities.

Please note that an advertisement will be released in the coming Commissioner's Orders for two groups of one Captain and one Retained Firefighter. They will alternate in staffing the watch room at the Show from 23 March to 3 April 2018 across day (0630 – 1430), afternoon (1430 – 2230) and night (2230 – 0630) shifts for the duration.

Yours sincerely

Paul McGuiggan AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Operations





File Ref. No: FRN18/56
TRIM Ref. No: D18/13770

Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigade Employees' Union
1 - 7 Belmore Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

1 March 2018

Dear Mr Drury,

Re: Reduction in Retained number for the Royal Easter Show

I write further to correspondence dated 23 February 2018 and 12 January 2018 regarding the reduced staffing requirements set out by the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS)

I note that you have corresponded with the Minister on this matter and are awaiting a reply. FRNSW is committed to providing a response to the Easter Show which the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) has determined is appropriate.

While there were issues between the parties on the form of a Commissioner's Order Expression of Interest (EOI) advertisement, the option to express interest in attending the Easter Show was initially broadcast to all Retained Firefighter's on 20 January 2018 and 12 successful applicants were notified on 23 February 2018.

Accordingly, FRNSW is now ready to supply the agreed staffing to the RAS and will of course have regard to any reply to the FBEU from the Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McGuigan".

Paul McGuigan AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Operations

