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4 June 2018

Mr Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigade Employees' Union of New South Wales
1 – 7 Belmore Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Dear Mr Drury

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) Aerial Fleet vehicles

I refer to your letter dated 29 May 2018 (copy attached). I provide the following response to your three questions. FRNSW currently has a state-wide aerial fleet consisting of:

- 12 Aerial Pumpers (AP), with an additional AP in use as a Service Exchange Vehicle (SEV)
- 9 Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP) with an additional 2 ALPs as SEVs. You are aware that the ALP for 27 station Parramatta has a blown engine and is currently replaced by an ALP sourced from Melbourne Fire Brigade
- 2 Turn Table Ladders (TTL) in service at 11 station Woollahra and 18 station Glebe

We have been working with our Minister and across government with Treasury through appropriate budget processes to ensure that our network of aerial appliances covers the state and adequately addresses the risks associated with high rise fires in both metropolitan and regional areas.

At this time, FRNSW has two aerial ladder platforms (ALP) and one aerial pumper (AP) on order. Those orders are 'in build' and we await their delivery when they are completed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PB", written over a white background.

Paul Baxter
Commissioner



29 May 2018

Mr Paul Baxter
Commissioner
Fire and Rescue NSW
1 Amarina Avenue
GREENACRE NSW 2190

Dear Mr Baxter,

Re: FRNSW aerial fleet crisis

I write regarding the growing crisis in the FRNSW aerial fleet, with appliances increasingly being relocated and their areas denuded to cover gaps elsewhere (e.g. Darlinghurst to Crows Nest today). The seriousness of the problem was confirmed by Deputy Commissioner Hamilton's letter of 25 May advising that FRNSW had been forced to ask Victoria's Andrews Government for a loan aerial appliance for "approximately four weeks" while Parramatta's aerial appliance undergoes repairs.

This alarming situation has not arisen suddenly. It has been a long time coming and FRNSW management has presumably been warning the Berejiklian Government about the excessive lead times associated with the ordering and delivery of major aerial appliances, which consequently require long term planning and budgeting. What has the Government been doing?

The Minister, Troy Grant has been reported as saying that "*If [the aerial fleet is] an issue that is outside their budget scope, then the commissioner has that conversation with me and I talk to government,*" - the implication being that FRNSW does not require additional funding or that you have not raised this with the Minister.

I therefore ask you, as FRNSW Commissioner:

- 1) does FRNSW have sufficient scope within its budget to meet all current and projected aerial appliance requirements?
- 2) If the answer to question 1 is yes then what is the cause of the current aerial crisis, and what is FRNSW doing to address it?
- 3) If the answer to question 1 is no then have you had "that conversation" yet with the Minister and, if so, what was the outcome?

I thank you in advance for your prompt reply to these questions, which are plainly of legitimate interest to the Union's members and the wider NSW public. Your answers will help guide the Union's response and its representations to the Minister and Premier.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary