

**The Hon Sophie Cotsis MP**

Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Work Health and Safety



22 February 2024

Mr Leighton Drury  
State Secretary  
Fire Brigade Employees Union

[ldrury@fbeu.net](mailto:ldrury@fbeu.net)

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Re: NSW Professional Firefighter Awards (2024)

Dear Mr ~~Drury~~ Leighton

I refer to your letter dated 16 February 2024 to the Premier in relation to the Awards which cover NSW's much valued firefighters and the imminent expiry of their nominal term. The Premier has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I confirm that the NSW Government is committed to the new collaborative approach to negotiations recently enshrined in the recent amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*. In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the FBEU's genuine commitment to working within the new framework, noting your participation at the recent mutual gains bargaining training session together with FRNSW.

Ideally, bargaining with FRNSW would have commenced at this point in time. However, I wish to assure you that FRNSW is actively considering your Log of Claims and their own proposals with a view commencing discussions with you without further delay.

To this end, I have been advised that a meeting was organised for today Thursday 22 February 2024 at 9 am to commence immediate discussions. I would urge you to reconsider progressing any plan for imminent action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophie Cotsis".

**Sophie Cotsis MP**  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Work Health and Safety