



20 February 2019

The Hon. Michael Daley MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

*By email: [leader.opposition@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:leader.opposition@parliament.nsw.gov.au)*

Dear Mr Daley,

The Fire Brigade Employees' Union (FBEU) represents professional firefighters in NSW. We have a proud 108-year history.

Firefighters employed by the Fire and Rescue NSW are professionals working at the frontline of emergency services and community safety in New South Wales.

The FBEU is preparing to speak with our members, their families and with members of the public in the communities where we live and work about the important decisions they have to make when they vote at the upcoming election.

Our firefighters are highly skilled and dedicated. We are trusted. We work alongside other emergency services professionals like paramedics and police every day.

We work and live in towns and suburbs across the state – from Bondi to Broken Hill, Bega to Ballina.

Our members work tirelessly at the very real frontline of fires and other emergencies – but we are currently not included in the Government's definition of 'frontline'.

We are aware there are ongoing discussions about proposals to increase the scope and scale of our work – this is coupled with no capacity for us to have the value of our work fairly decided and this is not good enough.

We are increasingly doing more with less.

Eyes may glaze over when governments and politicians use terms like: efficiency dividend, labour expense cap and wage cap but the public are really interested when we, frontline firefighters, talk about having fewer resources at the frontline in emergencies to keep our communities safe.

We deserve better and the community deserves better.

We continue to see development and population growth in cities and regional centres with no new fire stations and no real increases in the numbers of firefighters or resources to match. Over the term of the current government we have seen more station closures than new stations open.

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1-7 Belmore Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

Telephone 02 9218 3444 Facsimile 02 9218 3488 E-mail [office@fbeu.net](mailto:office@fbeu.net) Website [www.fbeu.net](http://www.fbeu.net)

This is concerning for us and our communities – all residents deserve to have the best and most appropriate emergency services to assist them when they most need it.

We cannot continue to do more with less. We can do more with more.

The Fire Brigade Employees' Union seeks your response to the following questions:

1. Do you commit that there will be no reductions in staffing at Fire and Rescue NSW in the life of your government should you be elected?
2. Could you advise how many additional Fire and Rescue NSW firefighters, resources and stations we will see delivered to our community including the locations, number and nature of jobs, additional resources and timelines for any commitments should NSW voters deliver your party to government at the election?
3. Do you consider professional firefighters to be frontline emergency service workers?
4. Can we rely on your party should you be elected in March to institute a fair and independent system of measuring the value of our work?
5. Are you willing to consult and reach agreement with the union should any major changes be proposed in the scope or to the nature of the work we perform?
6. As the anniversary of the Bega Valley Fires approaches are could you advise of the progress of the Keely recommendations, specifically:
  - a. rolling out of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) capability across the Rural Fire Service fleet
  - b. the RFS Liaison Officer employed around the clock in the Fire & Rescue Communications Centre

In addition, we support our friends in the public sector unions and across the union movement in their campaigns for better industrial relations policy, increased resources for public, essential and emergency services and in our efforts to stop the privatisation of public services.

We are also keeping a keen eye on other policy areas of importance to our members.

We ask that you provide your written response by COB Monday 25 February 2019.

We intend to begin discussions with our members and the community and will discuss your responses as part of these conversations.

Yours sincerely,



Leighton Drury  
State Secretary



20 February 2019

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP  
Premier  
52 Martin place  
Sydney NSW 2000

*By contact form*

Dear Ms Berejiklian,

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Yours sincerely,



Leighton Drury  
State Secretary



20 February 2019

The Hon. John Barilaro MP  
Deputy Premier  
Leader of The Nationals  
52 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

*By email: [monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au)*

Dear Mr Barilaro,

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Leighton Drury  
State Secretary



20 February 2019

The NSW Greens  
Suite D, Level 1, 275 Broadway, Glebe NSW 2037  
PO Box 48, Broadway NSW 2007

By email: [office@nsw.greens.org.au](mailto:office@nsw.greens.org.au)

To the NSW Greens

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The Fire Brigade Employees' Union has put the following questions to the Liberal, National and Labor parties:

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We seek your views inline with our questions above:

1. Can you commit to supporting there be no reduction to staff or resources for Fire & Rescue NSW?
2. Do you support increases in funding for firefighters and resources?
3. Do you believe firefighters are frontline emergency services workers?
4. Do you support have a fair and independent umpire who can make decisions about the value of work?
5. Do you support governments agreeing to consult with firefighters should there be any proposed changes to the scope of the work?

In addition, we support our friends in the public sector unions and across the union movement in their campaigns for better industrial relations policy, increased resources for public, essential and emergency services and in our efforts to stop the privatisation of public services.

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20 February 2019

The Shooters and Fishers and Farmers Party of NSW

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