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Contact: Brendan Cox

22 April 2021

Mr Leighton Drury  
State Secretary  
Fire Brigade Employees' Union of NSW  
1-7 Belmore Street  
SURRY HILLS 2010

Dear Leighton,

**Re: Code Red imposed on CAFS Aerial Pumpers**

I refer to your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and an email sent to me from the Fire Brigades Employees' Union Organiser, Max Murphy, dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021, regarding the introduction into service of the Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) Aerial Pumpers.

Over the last few weeks there has been considerable discussion between the parties in relation to the commencement of training on the new aerial pumpers. Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) correspondence dated 8<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 has also been sent to the FBEU in attempt to provide clarification of FRNSW's position in relation to the issues raised by the FBEU.

With these matters now clarified, FRNSW believes the FBEU Code Red relating to the training on these appliances should now be withdrawn to enable the planned training to commence as scheduled on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

In the email sent by Mr Max Murphy on 8th April, the FBEU raised a number of specific questions. For clarification, FRNSW responses to these questions are outlined below;

**How many firefighters are expected to be trained and qualified on this appliance?**

*All Firefighters, up to and including the rank of Leading Firefighter, who are attached to a station with an CAFS Aerial Pumper allocated to it, will be trained and qualified in the operation of the CAFS Aerial Pumpers.*

**Are Station Officers anticipated to receive this training and qualification?**

*Due to the command function that Station Officers perform, Station Officers are not required to be qualified to operate the CAFS Aerial Pumpers. However, it is important that Station Officers have a thorough understanding of the capabilities and safe operation of the appliance.*

*The training package is modular, enabling Station Officers to be delivered training and demonstration in the capabilities, limitations and safe working practices of the appliances.*

*Station Officers will not be required to operate nor be assessed on the aerial evolutions of the appliance.*

**What is the proposed minimum number of operators required to operate the appliance?**

*To operate the appliance as an aerial pumper two fully qualified operators will be required.*

*This will enable a qualified operator to be located in the cage and another qualified operator at ground level with the appliance.*

**How did FRNSW determine the minimum number of operators required to operate the appliance?**

*FRNSW's has extensive experience operating a fleet of major and minor aerial appliances.*

*Representatives from Training, Capability Management and Field Operations undertook a review of the staffing levels of current appliances and regulatory requirements before making recommendations on the minimum staffing levels.*

**Have Field Operations been made aware that the CAFS Aerial Pumper is classed as new work?**

*Field Operations are aware that Safework NSW provided advice that these appliances should be regarded as a new appliance that required a Risk Assessment process to be undertaken with appropriate levels of consultation with its employees.*

*That risk assessment process has been conducted in accordance with that advice.*

FRNSW notes that the Fire Brigades Employees Union imposed Code Red restriction on the commencement of training is yet to be withdrawn. This situation is disappointing given that all the justifications for the imposition cited by the FBEU have been more than addressed by FRNSW.

Placing these appliances into service will enhance FRNSW capability to protect the community.

I can confirm that it is FRNSW intention to have the training program for CAFS Aerial pumpers commence on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Consequently, I ask that the FBEU provide a commitment to remove the Code Red by COB Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. This will allow further discussion to resolve outstanding differences to take place during the seven-week delivery of training to the initial station groups.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Fewtrell', is positioned above the typed name.

Jeremy Fewtrell AFSM  
Deputy Commissioner  
Field Operations