



TANKER STRATEGY SHELVED – UPDATE AND ONGOING ISSUES

Members will be aware of the long-running concerns regarding the proposed 'tanker strategy' and its implications for safe crewing and operational capability in regional areas.

On 2 April, the Premier confirmed in a media interview that the government will not be progressing the tanker strategy, stating the initiative was "not safe." This outcome follows sustained and determined advocacy from FBEU members, who made clear that any move toward reduced crewing and increased reliance on tankers would undermine safe systems of work and expose both firefighters and communities to unacceptable risk. The decision not to proceed reflects the strength of that collective advocacy.

[You can find the interview here on FBEU socials.](#)

While this represents a positive shift, it does not resolve all outstanding issues. Members will recall that the tanker strategy was ultimately only progressed at one location - Peak Hill. That station continues to operate under reduced crewing arrangements, with no commitment at this stage to restore previous staffing levels. [The original Code Red in relation to minimum crewing at Peak Hill therefore remains in place.](#)

The Union has made formal representations regarding Peak Hill and the broader implications of these resourcing settings. A meeting with the Minister is scheduled for next week, where we will continue to press the case for a return to safe and appropriate crewing levels.

We will keep members informed of any developments. While the shelving of the tanker strategy is a significant outcome, the focus remains on ensuring that all stations are resourced in a way that reflects operational risk and supports the safety of both firefighters and the communities we serve.

PERMANENT MEAL ALLOWANCES ON OVERTIME - UPDATE

Further to [SitRep 13/2026](#), the meal allowance dispute has now been formally listed in the Industrial Relations Commission, with the matter scheduled for hearing on 21 April.

This is the next step in progressing the Union's position, and we will continue to update members as the matter develops.

In Unity

Leighton Drury
State Secretary