



22 March 2018

The Chair
Fire Services Joint Standing Committee

By email: committees@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Re: Proposed urgent meeting of the FSJSC

I refer to this week's very public debate over this state's dual fire service policy in the aftermath of Sunday's Tathra disaster.

It has been widely (but wrongly) presumed that the FBEU was responsible for Monday's Daily Telegraph reports that ignited this week's controversy. The truth is that the Union had no knowledge of those reports prior to their publication, and made no public comment until Deputy Commissioner Rogers' misleading media interviews rendered further silence untenable.

The Union has been measured in its public comments this week, and spent yesterday trying to disengage from the public debate. The same cannot be said for the Union's critics, led by the Minister for Emergency Services, who responded to a public savaging by broadcaster Alan Jones yesterday morning with an intemperate media conference that afternoon during which he referred to the elected representatives of this state's professional firefighters as "absolute bastards".

Debates over public safety should not be derailed through petty abuse and name calling. Nor should they be avoided through denial. Clearly, there are problems between the RFS and FRNSW and the Union proposes an urgent meeting of the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee so that the RFS, FRNSW, RFSA and FBEU may discuss these issues frankly and directly. One such issue should be the reconsideration of the "Improved efficiency and safety" agenda item in the Union's prescient correspondence of 22 November 2017 (attached).

The Coronial and Keilty inquiries announced yesterday will not report for months, if indeed this year, and so cannot be excuses to decline this request. Given the importance of this meeting I will remain available to attend at short notice, and look forward to your confirmation of same.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary

cc FRNSW Commissioner Paul Baxter
RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons
RFSA President Ken Middleton

Fire Brigade Employees' Union of New South Wales

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22 November 2017

The Chair
Fire Services Joint Standing Committee

By email: committees@ rfs.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Re: FSJSC agenda items

Please find attached two FBEU motions on notice for the upcoming Fire Services Joint Standing Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 30 November 2017. I apologise for the late submission of these items and for any inconvenience caused by same.

1. Improved efficiency and safety

That in the pursuit of more efficient fire services and improved safety for NSW firefighters and citizens alike, the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee recommends:

- a) that the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system already in use across the FRNSW operational fleet be progressively implemented across the RFS operational fleet and consequently, that real-time AVL data of both services' resources be available to FRNSW Communications Centres;*
- b) that priority for the rollout of AVL be afforded to RFS resources that are located either within or adjacent to Fire Districts; and*
- c) that the determination of response to routine incidents by local service jurisdiction and Mutual Aid Zones and Agreements continue but be complemented by the ability of FRNSW Communications Centres to respond appropriate additional resources if such additional response is expected to be quicker, having regard to the available AVL data.*

2. Presumptive protection for NSW firefighters

That the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee notes the operation or introduction of presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters in all other jurisdictions across Australia and records its in-principle support for the introduction of comparable protection for the firefighters of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary

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