



SIGNAL SEVEN

September 26 2019

So, how did it go? (part 2)

This week we had the second of 3 days of intensive enterprise bargaining negotiations with the assistance of a mediator.

As was the case last week we will not be providing a detailed description of “who said what”. This is a without prejudice negotiation, and positions will not be reported until they are at least agreed in principle, if not agreed.

Last week, we described our approach to this process as one of cautious optimism. That remains the case.

Without revealing any of the negotiating positions advanced, the negotiators are firmly convinced that it is worth continuing to engage in the process. This week a significant discussion took place which touched on resourcing for fire and rescue, resolving the Comcen change process, addressing the relief factor, reducing the levels of accrued leave, addressing health and wellbeing, and supporting greater access to training. This was a very broad ranging discussion.

The parties have significant “homework” to do and will reconvene next week. We have no doubt that at that time we will have some very significant and detailed things to report to the membership.

This is not over by a long stretch, but at least on the surface progress appears to be gathering momentum.

RMIT Research paper: “A Better Fire and Rescue Service for the ACT”

We are pleased to provide the first of the 4 research papers undertaken by RMIT for the UFU. It is attached to the email with this Signal 7. The remaining 3 papers will be distributed soon. This particular paper focuses on the context, pressures and organisational challenges facing ACT Fire and Rescue.

Members are strongly encouraged to read this paper and discuss it with colleagues, friends and supporters. It will be a useful resource in future UFU activities not only in support of bargaining, but also in support of the future of fire and rescue.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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