



SIGNAL SEVEN

8 August 2024

Enterprise Bargaining & Aerial Appliance Update

Enterprise Bargaining

As reported in the Signal 7 on [1 August](#), we gave notice to the Government and Self-Appointed Bargaining Representatives (SBRs) outlining our concerns that they were not bargaining in good faith.

We outlined a number of steps that we believe were required to meet the good faith bargaining requirements. The Table below shows the status of these matters as at today's date:

Bargaining Representative	Provide claims by 7 August	Respond to UFU claims	If there are no claims say so
ACT Government	No	No	N/A
G Abrahamffy	Yes	No	N/A
G Mason	Yes	No	N/A
A Steele	No	No	No
R Thompson	No	No	No

The ACT Government has replied to some UFU claims, most notably the tracked changes draft of core conditions which we provided on 2 July. They have not however responded to all of our claims and have not provided us with their claims. Further negotiations are scheduled for August 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 and September 2, 4, 9, 11.

We will report more fully on the claims of the various representatives and their responses to our claims when we have received them.

We continue to have concerns that the good faith bargaining requirements are not being met. The following excerpt from the ACT Government response of today underlines the nature of those concerns.

“Delays in receiving or clarifying claims from all parties delays the investigation process and Government consideration of them.

In relation to the cancellation of the meeting scheduled for 24 July 2024, it was noted that the UFU intended to provide further details concerning specific claims. As noted above,

further clause drafting and pay claim details were submitted by the UFU on 26 July and explained on 29 July 2024. Additionally, other bargaining representatives were still in the process of formulating their claims. As such, it was deemed that convening a meeting at that juncture would have been of minimal advantage, given the impending submission of supplementary information and the ongoing development of claims by other bargaining representatives. A subsequent meeting took place shortly after, on 29 July 2024, to advance the negotiation process.

As you may appreciate, the Government finds it beneficial to understand union and non-union bargaining representative claims while formulating its own non-core claims. In relation to the ACT Government's claims, these will be presented shortly.

The ACT Government looks forward to continuing to work with the UFU and other bargaining representatives to finalise the Agreement.”

We will continue to devote all of our resources to progressing this matter. Noting the priority of bargaining, please be patient if you have other industrial issues requiring attention, and in the first instance contact a member of BCOM. We remain committed to reaching agreement by the commencement of the Government Caretaker period on 13 September. We do however note the expressed concern of the Government today that:

“The ACT Government acknowledges our shared desire to finalise all bargaining before the Caretaker period (commencing 13 September 2024) and is working to achieve that, but it is becoming increasingly unlikely this will occur.”

Arising from the above, we are actively pursuing every avenue to progress negotiations. We will report back to members soon and we expect to convene members meetings within the next 2 weeks.

Aerial Appliance Availability Media

Please see attached coverage from this morning’s Canberra Times. In addition, ACT Branch Secretary Greg McConville will be on 2CC this afternoon at 4.05 pm, and WIN News tonight at 5.30pm.

To Update your details, please email admin@ufuact.asn.au
National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UFUAnational>
National Website: <https://www.ufua.asn.au/>
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Strength in Unity

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

Lift's return date is up in the air

Jasper Lindell

THE Emergency Services Minister says it is "difficult to predict" when a \$2.2 million aerial firefighting lift that was damaged by a worker from the manufacturer in September will return to service in Canberra.

The 42-metre aerial firefighting appliance was damaged by a worker from the manufacturer, Rosenbauer, during routine testing at the Emergency Services Agency's Fairbairn workshops in late September 2023.

Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman has told budget estimates the damage required a salvage process to remove the aerial superstructure so it could be returned to the factory in Italy for repairs.

"The vehicle is currently in the factory in Italy for these repairs to be completed," Mr Gentleman said in response to a question on notice.

"The ESA intends to send officers to Italy later in the year to conduct factory acceptance testing. This is critical to identify any defects or faults through a robust

structured test regime before the vehicle is sent back to Australia.

"This also allows for compliance checks against the contract and agreed specifications so that any issues can be rectified prior to shipment."

Mr Gentleman could not say when the appliance

would return to service in the ACT because it would depend on the repairs being completed, successful factory acceptance testing and a new commissioning process when the vehicle arrived back in Australia.

"The back-up aerial (Bronto) is currently in operations, with the cost of service and

repairs being covered by Rosenbauer," he said.

The Bronto faced significant criticism for its reliability and availability. Between July 1, 2017 and the end of February 2019, the Bronto was out of commission for 16 per cent of the time.

Mr Gentleman in May 2019 said the Rosenbauer

lift would provide "our firefighters with a more reliable appliance to fight fires in our town centres and suburbs".

The Rosenbauer 42-metre aerial appliance can support up to five people in a rescue cage at the end of its hydraulic arm. It entered service in the ACT in 2020, and cost \$2.2 million.



The 42-metre aerial firefighting appliance, pictured in Canberra in September 2020. Picture supplied

Aussies told to avoid Bangladesh

Australians have been told not to visit Bangladesh as political unrest spreads, with officials raising travel advice to its highest warning level.

Travel advice was upgraded to 'do not travel' on Wednesday, placing the South Asian nation on par with countries such as Iran and Afghanistan.

"There (are) ongoing protests and demonstrations across Bangladesh, with violent clashes throughout Dhaka and other cities," the travel advisory read. "Many deaths and injuries have been reported. Curfews have been imposed at short notice."

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the situation in Bangladesh had become "extremely volatile" following violent protests, which had led to its prime minister fleeing the country and resigning. Australians there have been urged to avoid large gatherings.



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T&C's apply. For full terms and conditions see the competition entry form; Entries close at 11:59pm AEST 14/08/2024. Entry is open to residents of Australia aged 18 years or older, excluding employees of Rural Press Pty Ltd (T/A Australian Community Media (ACM) publications, the competition/event employees and their immediate family, travel agents involved with and agencies associated with this promotion. Winner drawn by randomdraws.com.au on 16/08/2024. Winner notified by phone and email with instructions on how to claim prize. The winner's name will be published in Explore Travel on 24/08/24. Prize is 1x Collette "Canadian Rockies and Alaska's Inside Passage" tour for two people, including flights. Total prize value estimated \$42,000. The promoter is Rural Press Pty Ltd ABN 47 000 010 382 of 159 Bells Line of Rd, North Richmond, NSW, 2754. Authorised under NSW Authority Number TP/02764, NTP/10112 ACT Permit Number ACT TP 24/01210 and SA Licence Number T24/956.