



WORDBACK

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A B C D Day Retained

MID POINT PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW

On Monday 17 June the Union negotiating team met with SAMFS and government representatives to progress the second of the midpoint productivity reviews committed to as part of the settlement of our Enterprise Agreement.

Members are aware that a two percent increase was agreed and provided effective 1 July 2018. Then Chief Officer, Greg Crossman, confirmed with the Union that "... it is my opinion that the current list of proposals identified in the document as those scheduled to be implemented in the efficiency review, meet the requirements of efficiency savings or changing working arrangements ..." Mr Crossman went on to say amongst other things, "the commitment of the UFU to commence good faith discussions regarding both other matters (Engineering Review and the Community Safety Department review and restructure) is appreciated and will have a direct link to the productivity and efficiency methodology." The Union never agreed to the implementation of reviews being a requirement or a part of, the productivity and efficiency payments.

The Union has since continued in good faith to meet every requirement of us, outlined and agreed in every aspect of the mid-point efficiency review documentation.

Monday's meeting was the second of these meetings. The opinion of our representatives at the first meeting described it as a debacle with the SAMFS and government representatives ill prepared for any meaningful discussions to occur. This latest meeting was not a great improvement, although the strategy of the government now appears to be clear.

In a blatant shift of the goal posts, your representatives were left in no uncertain way that unless savings can be identified and quantified there will be no pay increase from the second round.

This issue has not been raised previously, nor is included in any of the documentation to which the Union committed to in good faith.

This is both a curious and disturbing turn of events and we are left with the clear impression that instructions issued from above aim to limit or remove the likelihood of any future pay increases from this process. This Union will not accept such an outcome.

Another meeting has been agreed and is to take place next week. The SAMFS has been tasked with bringing to this meeting identified and quantified savings in areas that have been subject of discussions to date. Members are acutely aware of the difficulty of quantifying from a grey-suited treasury accountants' perspective, the value of public good and benefit. But we shall not be dissuaded from strongly pursuing this particular matter.

We believe that the work undertaken to date, our ongoing commitment to working with the SAMFS in good faith, warrants and justifies a 2% pay increase commencing from the first pay period after 1 July 2019.

TRAVEL CLAIMS

State Councillor Greg Chivers has identified a potentially serious discrepancy with the payment of the "Travelling Time" component of Travel Claims. Several members have approached him with concerns about the underpayment they have received for their Travel Claims. Basically, the problem revolves around the calculation of 15 mins pay for every 8km or part thereof. See Clause 15 of The Firefighting Industry Employees Award 2007.

Greg has circulated an email to all Shop Stewards outlining the problem and asking them to check with members at their worksite for discrepancies. Please contact your Shop Steward to see a copy of the email, and then pass on any queries to Greg at his SAMFS email address. He will reply by email or phone. Once he has collated all the information, the UFU will present the case to SAMFS for explanation and/or rectification.

In solidarity

Paul Caica
GAD'd Secretary