



TASMANIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

CITATION: Filing of the AWU Bushfire Suppression Operations and Planned Burns Agreement No.2 of 2021 [2023] TASIC 18

PARTIES:

Minister administering the *State Service Act 2000*

Australian Workers' Union, Tasmania Branch

SUBJECT: *Industrial Relations Act 1984*, s 55(2) application for filing of Industrial Agreement

FILE NO: T15015 of 2023

HEARING DATE(S): Matter determined on the papers

HEARING LOCATION: N/A

DATE REASONS ISSUED: 5 MAY 2023

MEMBER: Ellis DP

CATCHWORDS: Industrial agreement – application approved – variation of agreement – salary increases, Winching Availability Allowance, Role Tables name amendments - effective from 1 September 2021.

FILING OF THE AWU BUSHFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS AND PLANNED BURNS AGREEMENT NO.2 OF 2021 [2023] TASIC 18

REASONS FOR DECISION

5 MAY 2023

[1] On 12 April 2023, the Minister administering the *State Service Act 2000* lodged with the Registrar, pursuant to Section 55(2) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1984* (the Act), an application to file the AWU Bushfire Suppression Operations and Planned Burns Agreement No.2 of 2021 (the Agreement).

[2] The Agreement is intended to take effect from 1 September 2021 and to remain in force until 30 June 2024.

[3] The Agreement cancels and replaces the AWU Bushfire Suppression Operations and Planned Burns Industrial Agreement 2021 (the old Agreement). The parties submit no employee will be disadvantaged by the cancellation and replacement of the Agreement. Given that the majority of clauses from the old Agreement have been transferred to the new Agreement, I accept that submission and accordingly, the old Agreement is cancelled.

[4] The Agreement contains minor amendments as set out:

- a. Clause 4, Date and Period of Operation reflects the agreement to cancel the previous Agreement, and the new operative dates;
- b. Clause 12, provides any future salary increases during the life of the Agreement in line with Band 7 and 8 of the AWU Public Sector Union Wages Agreement and the salary table at clause 12.3 has been updated;
- c. Clause 13, Winching Availability Allowance, is a new clause which ensures the availability of trained employees to undertake helicopter winching in response to wildfires;
- d. Schedule 1, Bushfire Suppression Operations Role Table includes some minor amendments to name changes, the inclusion of additional roles and an amendment to Level 2 incidents not being applicable to the Modelling and Predictions Unit Leader; and
- e. Schedule 2, Planned Burn Operations Role Table amendment to include State to named titles.

[5] The parties submitted that no employees covered by the Agreement would be disadvantaged by the Agreement, the approval would be in the public interest and it is made with the consent of the parties.

[6] Having regard to the submissions of the parties and the terms of the Agreement, I am satisfied that the agreement is consistent with the public interest, and it does not disadvantage the employees concerned. I am satisfied that there is genuine consent to the Agreement by the parties to it and that the Agreement is not for a period of more than five years.

[7] Pursuant to s 55(4) of the Act, the Agreement is approved, effective from 1 September 2021. The file will now be referred to the Registrar for registration in accordance with s 56 of the Act.

