

TASMANIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Industrial Relations Act 1984

T No. 3969 of 1992

IN THE MATTER OF an application by
the Minister administering the
Tasmanian State Service Act to
vary the Fire Brigades Award

re restructure of award

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

HOBART, 15 January 1993
continued from 30/11/92

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Unedited

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No changes in appearances I note. Mr Ogle?

MR OGLE: No, Mr Deputy President, still the same old faces.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR OGLE: You might remember prior to Christmas that we indicated to you that meetings were progressing with respect to the award and in fact some progress had been made.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR OGLE: What I intend to do this morning is just report on the events up till now and we'll be seeking a further adjournment. Meetings have occurred between the United Firefighters, representatives of the minister and fire service and out of these meetings we have been able to circulate a draft proposal which has basically got agreement but you might remember there is still the outstanding matter of annual leave which is one of the matters that has disagreement, but obviously is not a matter before you. It's one that's got to be referred to a full bench.

Consultation has also occurred with the management steering group and a number of amendments, although they be late in the piece, have been included. I'd be in a position to have a final draft or a penultimate final draft, I suppose, award to be circulated today to the members of the steering committee and we've arranged with the United Firefighters Union and Mr Devine to meet on Monday afternoon. Mr Devine has also indicated to me that there's a couple of matters that he just wants some clarification on, so what I'm indicating to you at this stage is that progress has been made and after our meeting on Monday we'll be in a clear position to indicate whether we have total agreement in the award, or whether there are matters still requiring arbitration. I don't think that there is any way that we are going to have agreement on the matter of annual leave.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Right.

MR OGLE: So, with that background and the indication of progress that has been made to date, I'd be seeking an adjournment until possibly about the 25th of January. I have sought from Mr Devine whether this date is clear and it is clear from his point of view, so -

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Fine.

MR OGLE: - if it's from your point of view that would be a date we could submit regarding the award, I would expect that would - that it would take a full day and that would be it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes. Naturally with any significant award changes, the commission, as constituted, would want to go through in some detail and understand their meaning, and to that extent, yes, it probably would take up something in the order of a day I would think. One of the questions I would foreshadow, is what will be the cost implications in relation to those particular matters?

MR OGLE: Yes, Mr Deputy President, we'll be in a position when submitting, to go through in detail each clause - what I intend to do is go through each clause, give an indication where we believe there is agreement, but obviously Mr Devine speaks for the United Firefighters Union and he would be indicating that, but as far as costs are concerned, yes, we'll be definitely indicating whether we see there is any efficiencies or in some circumstances - I can't think -

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes. Well I mean, whether they are -

MR OGLE: - of any where there would be any costs implications.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: - cost savings or just costs. But however. So far as I am concerned, and I haven't yet heard from Mr Devine and of course I shall, the 25th of January is free for my diary. In fact, I've taken the liberty of pencilling in the fire brigades matter for that date.

MR OGLE: That suits all parties, Mr Deputy President. Thank you.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Fine. Mr Devine, what's your position?

MR DEVINE: Yes, Mr Deputy President. I'd - my comments would be reasonably short this morning. I'd say that the United Firefighters Union supports Mr Ogle's position. I'd say further that the discussions that we've had to date have been meaningful and I'm hopeful that to a very large extent when we come before you again on the 25th that we can be in a position of agreement to a very large extent.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR DEVINE: And we do need to - as Mr Ogle said, I think we're meeting on Monday afternoon next and from that point we should be just about able to tidy it up.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Fine.

MR DEVINE: If the commission pleases.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Very well. I'll grant the adjournment till 10.30 am on the - Monday the 25th of January. Thank you.

HEARING ADJOURNED

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