**TASMANIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION**

*Industrial Relations Act* 1984

s55(2) application for approval of an industrial agreement

**Minister administering the State Service Act 2000**

**and**

**United Firefighters Union of Australia, Tasmania Branch**

(T14488 of 2017)

**TASMANIAN FIRE FIGHTING INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES’ INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT 2016**

PRESIDENT D J BARCLAYHOBART, 27 March 2017

**Industrial agreement - application approved - operative from date of 1 December 2016 - forwarded to Registrar for registration**

**DECISION**

**[1]** On 21 March 2017, the Minister administering *the State Service Act* 2000 (MASSA) lodged with the Registrar, pursuant to Section 55(2) of the *Industrial Relations Act* 1984 (the Act), an Application to approve the Tasmanian Fire Fighting Industry Employees’ Industrial Agreement 2016 (the Agreement).

**[2]** At the hearing in Hobart on 27 March 2017, Ms E McCarthy and Mr G Freeman appeared on behalf of MASSA and Mr G Cooper appeared on behalf of the United Firefighters Union of Australia, Tasmania Branch (UFUA).

**[3]** Ms McCarthy noted that agreement arose out of extensive negotiations over a lengthy period of time. She submitted that no employees covered by the agreement were disadvantaged by the Agreement. She noted improved benefits including the inclusion of the Family Violence Leave provision, an increase in wages and commitments to continue to negotiate in respect to certain matters (referred to in clause 12). These commitments were noted by Mr Cooper as being particularly significant to the entry into the Agreement by the union on behalf of the employees covered.

**[4]** Ms McCarthy submitted that the Agreement was made by genuine consent. She submitted that the Agreement was in the public interest. Mr Cooper echoed those submissions. He noted that Agreement at ballot had 75% approval from those who participated in the ballot. He also noted a high response rate to the ballot.

**[5]** In the circumstancesI am satisfied that the agreement is consistent with the public interest requirements of the Act, does not disadvantage the employees concerned, and the term of the agreement does not exceed 5 years.

**[6]** Pursuant to s55(4) the agreement is approved with an operative date from 1 December 2016 and shall remain in force until 30 June 2018. The file will now be referred to the Registrar for registration of the Agreement in accordance with the requirements of s56(1) of the Act.

David Barclay

**President**

**Appearances:**

Mr E McCarthy for MASSA

Ms G Freeman for MASSA

Ms G Cooper for UFUA

**Date and place of hearing**:

2017

27 March

Hobart