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Farewell Henry Lawrence

As the State Secretary, I wish to inform members that Henry Lawrence will be leaving the UFU Queensland Branch and will be taking up the position of Secretary of the Aviation Branch of the UFU of Australia.

In the coming weeks Henry will be re-locating the existing Aviation Branch from Melbourne and opening an office in Queensland. The good news for the Qld Branch is that our historical knowledge hasn't been lost and secondly, Henry has offered to assist where necessary in the upcoming EB or any other industrial issue that may arise from time to time.

Henry has held the positions of Qld Branch Secretary, Assistant State Secretary and was State President of the Queensland Branch for twelve years from 1997 until 2009. I personally wish to thank Henry for his efforts over the years.

I now have the pleasure of informing you that SCM has now given the approval to employ John Spreckley as our new Senior Industrial Officer. This decision was not taken lightly as our Industry (Firefighting) is unique in many different ways. John has impeccable credentials and is highly regarded amongst all Queensland Unions. John has extensive experience in dealing with Emergency Services and in fact, has run or overseen many cases in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. One of his most recent major cases was the successful Arbitration for Ambulance employees in 2009 in front of the full bench. Finding someone that understands our culture, rosters etc. and working for a sister Union will no doubt be an advantage to us now and for many years to come.

The added benefit is that we are very well resourced and prepared for our EB negotiations about to commence, having both Henry and John and the experience to take it to the next level if required.

John will be transitioning from the United Voice Union to the UFU in the coming weeks. I welcome him to the UFU and I hope that you will as well.

John Oliver
State Secretary