



DECISION

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009
s.189—Arrangement for conduct of an election

United Firefighters' Union of Australia
(E2025/131)

MR STEENSON

SYDNEY, 19 AUGUST 2025

Arrangement for conduct of election.

[1] On 8 August 2025, the Australian Capital Territory Branch (the **Branch**) of the United Firefighters' Association of Australia (the **UFUA**) lodged with the Fair Work Commission (the **Commission**) prescribed information for an election to fill a newly created office on the Branch Committee of Management (**BCOM**), for the remainder of the term.

Firefighter Trustee committee member
(who shall be of a rank below Station Officer) (1)

[2] Other offices of the BCOM were most recently elected in the scheduled election **E2024/12**,¹ which was declared by the Australian Electoral Commission (**AEC**) on 4 April 2024.

[3] The rules of each of the UFUA's branches appear as Schedules to the UFUA rules. On 9 May 2025, the Branch lodged with the Commission a notice and declaration setting out proposed alterations to Schedule 7 of the UFUA rules, which contains the ACT Branch's rules.

[4] The alterations, which were certified on 3 July 2025,² insert within the Branch rules, a new subrule 1(a)(iii) which provides for an additional Trustee office on the BCOM. Another new subrule, 1(b)(i), provides that the new Firefighter Trustee office is to be held by a person who holds a rank below the rank of Station Officer.

[5] In support of the rule alteration, the Branch provided submissions (that the Commission accepted), which stated that:

‘[ACT Fire & Rescue] currently has 396 operational firefighter positions, 296 of those 396 positions are occupied by firefighters who are a rank below the rank of Station Officer. The BCOM currently has 8 positions, of which only 2 of those are held by firefighters who are a rank below the rank of Station Officer.’

¹ Election decision [2024] FWCD 17, dated 8 February 2024

² Rules decision [2025] FWCD 1043 issued in matter R2025/63

The proposed change is intended to ensure that our committee better represents all firefighters, particularly those who are beginning their career and ensuring that we reflect a voice for those newer firefighters.³

[6] The rule alterations also provide, in subrule 1(c), that the additional office of Trustee is to be elected as soon as practicable after the rule creating it has been certified, and that the person declared elected shall hold office from the date that this election (**E2025/131**) is declared until the declaration of the next scheduled election for the BCOM, which is to be conducted in 2027.⁴

[7] I am satisfied that an election for the abovenamed office is required to be held under the rules of the organisation and, under subsection 189(3) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, I am making arrangements for the conduct of the election by the Australian Electoral Commission.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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³ [2025] FWCD 1043 in R2025/63, at para 11.

⁴ See Schedule 7 (ACT Branch rules), subrule 1(c)(ii), set out in Rulebook 259V incorporating alterations certified 3 July 2025 [R2025/63]

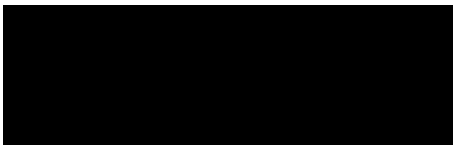
PRESCRIBED INFORMATION FOR ELECTIONS in accordance with Section 189 *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and Regulation 138 *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009*

I, David Bridgford, being the Branch Acting Secretary of the United Firefighters Union of Australia – ACT Branch, make the following statement:

1. I am authorised to sign this statement containing prescribed information for the ACT Branch of the United Firefighters Union of Australia.
2. The following information is lodged under subsection 189(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the RO Act).
3. The elections that are required are set out in the table in Annexure A.
4. [In relation to scheduled elections, if lodged 2 months prior to nominations opening] This statement **IS** lodged at least 2 months before nominations open for the election(s) in Annexure A.

A failure to lodge Prescribed Information on time can lead to civil penalties under the RO Act.

Signed: Acting Branch Secretary David Bridgford



Dated: 8 August 2025

NOTE: This statement should be lodged with the Fair Work Commission at least 2 months prior to nominations opening. It can be submitted to regorgs@fwc.gov.au.

Annexure A

- Elections that are required [insert as many pages as required]

Branch	Name of Office	Number required	Voting System Direct voting system; Collegiate electoral system	Reason for Election Scheduled; Casual vacancy; New office created; Insufficient nominations	Electorate
ACT	Firefighter Trustee committee member who shall be of a rank below Station Officer	1	Direct Voting System	New office created	All members of the ACT Branch (Rule 70)
Insert branch name	Insert name of office	Insert number of offices	Select relevant voting system	Select reason for election	State the electorate and reference the relevant rule
Insert branch name	Insert name of office	Insert number of offices	Select relevant voting system	Select reason for election	State the electorate and reference the relevant rule

- Important dates:

	Direct Voting System	Collegiate Electoral System
Nominations OPEN	To be determined by returning officer	Insert date and reference the relevant rule; or 'To be determined by returning officer' if the rules provide
Nominations CLOSE	To be determined by returning officer	Insert date and reference the relevant rule; or 'To be determined by returning officer' if the rules provide
Roll of Voters cut off date	To be determined by returning officer, 7 days prior to nominations opening (Rule 27)	Insert date and reference the relevant rule

NOTES: For insufficient nominations and casual vacancies, the date nominations open and close, unless specified in the rules, should be listed as 'To be determined by the returning officer'. This also applies where rules are silent as to the nominated dates.