

PLATFORM

a vision for our union and our job



At our last election, I ran wanting to do three things:

Grow our job- because we provide the best emergency service in NSW. Our service should be expanding and growing.

Build a strong FBEU- because our union is strongest when it is run by and for members and run well.

Change the rules- because everyone deserves dignity and fairness at work and that means we should be paid fairly, and we should be resourced properly to do our jobs.

Here's a snapshot of some things we have achieved together so far, and what we'd like to do into the future. By voting for us, you're voting you're voting for us working together to acheive this.



GROW OUR JOB

Our service should be expanding and growing- more firefighters in NSW and in our union.

Some things we've done so far: Through boundary reviews led by firefighters we have expanded FRNSW's areas, saw Tamworth go 10/14, kept firefighters Covid safe, campaigned to keep Redfern and Alexandria open, campaigned to get Oran Park built, had a win in a vexed industrial dispute (assist ambos), made station amenities a hot-button issue and got management working on bread-and-butter issues that matter to firies, generated more positive media for FRNSW and firefighting work during the bushfires than FRNSW's media unit.

What we want to do 2021-2024 to grow our job: Look to more 10/14 expansion in regional areas and retained expansion in RFS areas, get fire stations built and being realistic- keep stations open, save our ComCens, expand into VRA and SES areas, hold off Resilience NSW, keep generating more positive media for professional firefighting, consolidate our partnership with the Museum of Fire to keep and promote our heritage, train FNSW management to go and advocate for our service with government.





BUILD A STRONG FBEU

Members should run our union and be able to organise to have power. Our union needs to run properly to facilitate that.

What we've done so far: Shifted to an organising model and started electing delegates and WHS representatives, introduced the Member Services Agreement to give members and elected leaders a standard for staff to work to, introduced a new database that is fit for purpose, reviewed finance policies that were in place, resolved legacy issues so members were properly represented, changed donations to reflect member values and using member money well, SCOM attend member events like the championships (even though they have to pay from their own pockets), we email out Sitrep, and members are involved in everything, such as:



Sitting on our Awards negotiating committee
Forming delegate networks to organise in their workplaces
Negotiating with the employer around station issues
Members had their first ever vote on a log of claims in the Union's history



Members go to the Industrial Relations Commission
Members set up and are running Work Health and Safety Health and Safety Representative networks and winning agreements
Members are now on the Training Review Committee
Members are now on the D&D fund.

What we want to do 2021-2024 to build a strong FBEU: Continue growing our member power by building delegates and structures for them, begin the delegate training Covid prevented, make the union's rules easy to understand, clear, and up to date with the law and support a union that works with technology, put in place a pathway and other supports to ensure the Secretary is a rank and file fire who loves the job, explore more member services like the traffic offence fund, ensure members have quality services to support them, and form a promotions committee with the employer and members.

CHANGE THE RULES

Wage caps, cuts and freezes are unjust and should be fought and we should be paid fairly. We shouldn't be forced to shift resources around from a shrinking pool.

What we've done so far: We've built political leverage with every political party and made political work part of the Secretary's role by building smart power in Parliament with every party (how we won cancer workers comp for members), our members did work together in regional towns to highlight our issues, we've rebuilt relationships within the union movement and other unions in NSW, formed the Emergency Services Coalition to enlarge our reach, nationally we came up with a functional replacement for the UFUA (an example of this is our joint bushfire royal commission campaign, success, and submission) which now represents the majority of professional firefighters in Australia, and we won Award positives like DV leave, strengthened our relationship with our regional Trade and Labour Council comrades.

What we want to do 2021-2024 to make rules fairer for fire: Continue making firefighting work a part of the news cycle to highlight the value of professional firefighters, get a jobs commitment from every party of government or failing that, from the opposition and run a campaign against the government to expand our service, see our issues in Parliament and the news regularly, break the wages cap one way or another, elect better bosses to government in 2023, make firefighter cancer legislation retrospective, and support the work of Hunter Workers Alliance.