



Notice of Motion – Conference remits  
**2017 UFBA CONFERENCE**





# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



## **TITLE:** Remit 1 Proposed merger of FRFANZ with United Fire Brigades' Association

**Mover:** The Board of the United Fire Brigades' Association

**Seconded:** Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigades

**Motion:** "Conference supports in principle a merger of the Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand (FRFANZ) with the United Fire Brigades' Association (United Fire Brigades' Association) to form an enlarged organisation, and empowers the United Fire Brigades' Association Board to effect the merger to take effect in 2018"

**Reason for remit:** In July 2016, United Fire Brigades' Association and the Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to make sure all urban and rural firefighters have a single powerful voice during the transition of 40 organisations - comprising those under the National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) and the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) - to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).

The United Fire Brigades' Association and FRFANZ have both worked closely together over the past year, effectively representing the interests of all personnel during the transition to ensure best possible outcomes while the United Fire Brigades' Association has also provided administration and other support to the FRFANZ Executive to meet the needs of its members.

FENZ took over fire and emergency services on July 1st and total integration of urban and rural is expected to take some years.

The ongoing positive relationship between the United Fire Brigades' Association and FRFANZ gives an exceptional opportunity to build on collective strengths during this integration phase. Executives of both the United Fire Brigades' Association and FRFANZ agreed to ask their members to consider a merger of the two organisations, the amalgamated entity to be an enlarged United Fire Brigades' Association (Inc).

The FRFANZ Executive will ask its members to consider the proposal at its Annual General Meeting in August 2017.

Should FRFANZ agree, this Remit would (a) consent United Fire Brigades' Association's participation in the merger and (b) empower the United Fire Brigades' Association Board to proceed with a merger. If both memberships agree to merge, the United Fire Brigades' Association and FRFANZ Boards will work together to formalise the amalgamation process, enabling the United Fire Brigades' Association to provide advocacy and services for all volunteer firefighters throughout New Zealand.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

By agreeing to a merger, the United Fire Brigades' Association and FRFANZ will be able to continue and enhance, as one entity, the collaborative approach to advocacy and servicing activities for all firefighters already outlined in the United Fire Brigades' Association/

FRFANZ 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. This identifies and clarifies issues facing both organisations and all their members: it charts a future direction and, most importantly, sets targets to meet the shared Vision: "Safe Sustainable Communities". There are set six key goals which will enable all firefighters everywhere to make highly-skilled contributions towards the health and safety of the communities they serve:

- Be Experts in Advocacy
- Have a Broad Membership
- Ensure Sustainable Funding
- Be Trusted Partners
- Provide Strong Leadership
- Provide Excellence in Learning

Jointly, work is currently underway to develop effective and attainable action plans.

### **THE FOLLOWING ARE DEPENDENT ON THE MERGER GOING AHEAD:**

#### ***What are the benefits?***

A single powerful voice for all firefighters (membership numbers could increase by 130 Brigades/Fire Forces).

Better development and networking opportunities.

Well-resourced advocacy and support services for all firefighters.

#### ***Key elements of the change***

A Rural Subcommittee will be set up represent and advocate the needs of rural fire forces

The two current Service Honours systems - United Fire Brigades' Association Service Honours and FRFANZ Rural Honours - will remain unchanged. However, the United Fire Brigades' Association will manage FRFANZ Service Honours - we will run processes alongside the United Fire Brigades' Association Service Honours.

#### ***Minimal Constitutional Change***

Our membership may want to consider a rural representative on the United Fire Brigades' Association Board.

Between now and 1 July 2018, there will be no change to the United Fire Brigades' Association membership model.

After 2018, if the merger is agreed upon, there will be some slight changes to the membership model to ensure we can capture the unique requirements of every FENZ Volunteer Brigade and Rural Fire Force.

**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



**TITLE:** Remit 2 Representation, Advocacy and Support for Enrolled Members of a Fire Brigade Member

**Mover:** The United Fire Brigades' Association Board

**Seconder:** Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:**

That Clause 6.5 of the United Fire Brigades' Association Constitution be amended with a new Clause 6.5.1, with the existing, following, Clauses consequentially re-numbered:

6.5.1 Insert "To receive representation, advocacy and support services when dealing with issues, grievances and disputes arising out of their membership of a Member Brigade"

Reason for Remit:

- The United Fire Brigades' Association is committed to ensuring all Enrolled Members of Fire Brigade Members have the support and the representation they need to confidently serve their communities
- The United Fire Brigades' Association has entered into a 2-year commitment with Fire and Emergency New Zealand to provide these services to its members.
- The proposed amendment recognises and satisfies the remit agreed at the 2016 Annual Conference and AGM:

**2016 Remit moved by Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade**

*"That the United Fire Brigades' Association alter its Constitution and Rules to enable the Association to be in a position to represent individual members of its constituent Brigades should the need arise"*

- The proposed amendment acknowledges and emphasises that the current Rule 2.2 and 2.3 of the Constitution applies to individuals as well as Member Brigades.

**United Fire Brigades' Association**

**Constitution Rule 2.2**

*"To advance the collective interests and status of member brigades and the safety and welfare of Enrolled Members"*

**United Fire Brigades' Association**

**Constitution Rule 2.3**

*"To advocate for and represent Volunteer Fire Brigades and Volunteer Firefighters generally and specifically in relation to disputes or grievances ...and where appropriate provides a mediation service to Volunteer Firefighters in relation to any dispute or grievance"*

- The proposed amendment suggests the new Clause is inserted as 6.5.1, and the existing following Clauses are re-numbered, to give appropriate pre-eminence to the new Clause and its importance as part of the Association's Objects.

• **Rationale for wording of the Remit**

Keeping the wording as "Enrolled Member" and "Member Brigade" ensures that the new clause aligns with the definitions of our full membership. This allows the United Fire Brigades' Association to represent all firefighters Rural, Urban, Volunteer, career, industry, or military.

• **Constitution definitions for clarity:**

**Enrolled Member** "...means a person for the time being enrolled in a Fire Brigade Member of the Association"

**Fire Brigade** "means a group of Enrolled Members organized and trained for the prevention, suppression, and extinction of fire and attending other emergency incidents"

**Fire Brigade Member or Brigade** "means a fire brigade (as defined above) admitted to membership of the Association under Rule 6"

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**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director :** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



## **TITLE:** Remit 3 Amendment to Rule 1 of the Constitution

**Mover:** The United Fire Brigades' Association Board

**Seconded:** Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:** "That the names and definitions under Rule 1 of the Constitution be amended as follows, with subsequent amendments in the Constitution wherever they appear:

- **Act:** definition amended to read "means the Fire and Emergency NZ Act 2017 and amendments"
- **Fire Region replace wording with:** "means a Fire Region established by Fire and Emergency New Zealand"
- **New Zealand Fire Service:** replace with "Fire and Emergency New Zealand: means Fire and Emergency New Zealand as established under Statute, and the initialism FENZ has the same meaning".
- **New Zealand Fire Service Commission, Fire Service Commission or Commission:** replace with "means the Board of Fire and Emergency New Zealand"
- **NZFS Fire Brigade: replace with:** "FENZ Fire Brigade: means any fire brigade recognised by, and which has a service agreement, mandate or engagement with, Fire and Emergency New Zealand"
- **NZFS National Commander:** Definition is replaced with "National Commander means the National Commander Urban, and the Rural National Manager, of Fire and Emergency New Zealand"
- **Voluntary Rural Fire Force:** delete. The new definition for "FENZ Fire Brigade" includes Volunteer Rural Fire Forces established under the Fire Service Act 1975 and the Rural and Forest Fires Act 1977, both Acts repealed. "

### **Reason for remit:**

- The Fire and Emergency Act, 2017, effective July 1st this year, superseded the Fire Service Act, 1975, and, as a result, some titles of the former organisation and mandated roles within it are either changed or deleted.
- United Fire Brigades' Association's Constitution as a whole will need major change in the near future, not only to provide for the altered landscape of fire services under FENZ, but also to comply with requirements of the Incorporated Societies and Charities Act.

- This will be a project that will take time to draft amendments, seek legal advice and leave adequate time for the membership to consider and approve them. As well, the possibility of the Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand merging with the United Fire Brigades' Association could result in additional changes.
- Moreover, the full impact of the new legislation will only become clear, particularly in practical terms, during the transition period which FENZ says will take some years. Meantime it has indicated "business as usual" approach for the next 18-24 months to allow time for changes it will introduce. United Fire Brigades' Association's Constitution may need amendment to provide for this reform.
- For these reasons it is, thus, not timely, nor is there enough time, to recommend a makeover of the Constitution at this year's Conference. Ideally, the United Fire Brigades' Association will take one revised Constitution to the Membership for its consideration at a later date.
- However, in the interest of United Fire Brigades' Association's "business as usual", this Remit suggests immediate changes to the Constitution and Rules to make them relevant and easily read during transition and to help ensure key words are not misinterpreted. Changes suggested in the Remit are to be applied throughout the document without having to amend every reference.

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**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



**TITLE:** Remit 4 Amendment to Rule 6 of the Constitution

**Mover:** The United Fire Brigades' Association Board

**Second:** Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:**

That the following amendments be made to Clause 6.2 of the United Fire Brigades' Association Rules to provide for changes in the 2017 Act, with consequential re-numbering:

6.2.1 Amend: *"A Fire Brigade which is established by Fire and Emergency New Zealand"*

This clause caters for career fire brigades

6.2.2 Amend: *"A Volunteer Fire Brigade which is recognised by, and has a service agreement, mandate or engagement with, Fire and Emergency New Zealand"*

This clause caters for all volunteer fire brigades and incorporates Volunteer Rural Fire Forces, Fire Brigade Auxiliary Units and Operational Support Units.

6.2.3 Remove this clause: redundant.

Fire Police were re-renamed Operational Support in 2010.

6.2.4 Remove this clause: redundant

Auxiliary Units have been included in the omnibus Clause 6.2.2

6.2.5 Amend: *"An Industry Fire Brigade under Section 69 of Fire and Emergency Act 2017"*

This clause caters for Industrial Fire Brigades and Airport Fire/Rescue

6.2.6 Amend: *"A Defence Fire Brigade as described in Section 6 of Fire and Emergency Act 2017"*

This clause caters for Defence Fire Brigades

6.2.7 Amend: *"Executive Officers and firefighters not part of an operational brigade in the employ of Fire and Emergency New Zealand"*

This clause caters for executives and firefighters deployed at Headquarters/Regional/Area offices

6.2.8 Remove this clause: redundant

The Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and its regulations have been repealed.

6.2.9 Amend "A Communication Centre operated by Fire and Emergency New Zealand"

This clause caters to staff deployed in FENZ Communications Centres

**Reason for Remit**

- With the Fire and Emergency Act taking effect from July 1st this year there is need for amendments to the United Fire Brigades' Association's Constitution and Rules. As has been pointed out in submissions in the Remit re Clause 1, it is not timely, nor is there enough time, to suggest major changes at Conference 2017.
- Meantime, to avoid misinterpretation and confusion this remit seeks amendments to Clause 6 to bring it into line with the Fire and Emergency Act, 2017.
- Changes to the sub-clauses are intended to clarify matters without affecting the purpose of the rule, as per the note after each clause above.

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**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



**TITLE:** Remit 5 Amendment to Rule 7 of the Constitution

**Mover:** The Board of the United Fire Brigades' Association

**Secunder:** Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:** That Clause 7.1.2 be deleted and sub-clause 7.1.3 now become sub-clause 7.1.2

**Reason for Remit:**

- Rural Fire Authorities are not included in the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act, 2017: FENZ has taken over as the authority for Rural Volunteer Fire Forces and their membership, etc, of the UFBA is covered in other sections of the Constitution.

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**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



**TITLE:** Remit 6 Revision of the Trust Deed of the UFBA Benevolent Fund

**Mover:** The Board of the United Fire Brigades' Association

**Secunder:** Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:** That members approve the proposed changes to the UFBA Benevolent Fund Trust Deed

**Reason for Remit:**

**BACKGROUND**

The UFBA Benevolent Fund was established in 1990. The main objective of the Fund is to assist fire brigade members in times of financial hardship by providing a grant(s) where appropriate.

The Trust Deed of the Fund has not been reviewed and updated since its inception in 1990. The Trustees asked UFBA lawyer John Hanning to review the Deed and provide advice on the language used and bringing it into the 21st century.

**PROPOSED NEW TRUST DEED**

Attached is the proposed new Trust Deed. A summary of the changes is below.

The revised Deed:

1. Makes no change to eligibility to receive benefits (Enrolled member of a fire brigade, their spouse and dependent children plus persons who have made a significant contribution to a Brigade, and UFBA Life Members). Removes references to "membership" of the Fund as appropriate.
2. Removes procedural requirements on applications for assistance from the Fund.
3. Reconciles definitions to Association Rules and removes inconsistencies.
4. General simplification of language in relation to objects, powers and Trust Board proceedings.

Increases the number of Trust Board Trustees from 7 to 8 by addition of Association Vice President

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**Acting Charge of the Board:** Glenn Williams

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 26 July 2017



# CONFERENCE AUCKLAND 2017



**TITLE:** Remit 7 Benevolent Fund and New Zealand Fire Brigades Institute Funding

**Mover:** Rolleston Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Seconder:** The Lincoln Volunteer Fire Brigade

**Motion:** That Rule 10 of the Association Constitution be amended by the addition of the Following as Rule 10.4 and renumbering the present Rules 10.4-10.5

10.4 The annual subscription payable by all Fire Brigade Members shall include levies as determined annually by Conference and payable in respect of each Enrolled Member of a Brigade for the support of the Association Benevolent Fund and the New Zealand Fire Brigades Institute and such levies shall be deducted from the quarterly grant payments by Fire and Emergency New Zealand and paid to the Benevolent Fund and Institute respectively.

The initial levy payable in respect of the New Zealand Fire Brigades Institute shall be \$2.00 for each Enrolled Member.

**Reason for Remit:**

The funding of the Benevolent Fund is not mentioned in Association Constitution. We feel it is important to protect this funding, as well as give the opportunity annually if it is the Delegates wish to alter the funding level.

The New Zealand Fire Brigades Institute currently receives a small annual budget out of the UFBA Association funds.

We feel that they should receive independent funding in order to protect the Institute going forward and all them to further expand and provide even better service for the Member.s

The Sports Council is currently funded in this way as an example.

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**Officer in Charge:** Nigel Lillery

**Director:** Russell Anderson

**Date Sent to United Fire Brigades' Association:** 27 July 2017