

Fire Services Reform

Supporting our members during the transition to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)

UFBA: Working for firefighters

The United Fire Brigades' Association (UFBA) serves and represents the interests of over 530 member brigades and rural fire forces throughout the country.

Our members consist of volunteer, paid, rural, urban, industrial and defence brigades—80% are volunteers.

UFBA: Taking action for members

On 27 May 2015, the Government released a Fire Services Review Discussion Document setting out options to review and reform the structure, funding, legislation and organisation of rural and urban fire services.

In July 2015, we formed the UFBA Fire Services Review Submission following extensive consultation with our members. See more about our submission at www.ufba.org.nz/fire_services_review/submission_2015

Since then, UFBA has worked tirelessly with officials in workshops, forums and senior official liaison meetings on behalf of our members. As a key stakeholder, we enjoy the confidence of Department of Internal Affairs officials and the FENZ Transition Programme Team as a trusted advisor who will deliver on our undertakings.

Below is a summary of the actions and advocacy undertaken by the UFBA on behalf of our members.

UFBA: Significant wins for members

Through our effective advocacy, we have had some significant wins for members:

- Overall there is a huge increase in funding for volunteer support
- There will be ongoing funding for independent advocacy for volunteers
- UFBA will perform the same functions as now by entering into agreements with FENZ
- The critical importance of local leadership including CFOs and DCFOs has been recognised.

At the FENZ Stakeholder Transition Seminar on 7 July, NZFSC Board Chair Paul Swain said - "brigades and rural fire forces that exist on 30 June 2017 will still exist on 1 July 2017. We will still need CFOs and DCFOs."

UFBA: Ongoing actions on your behalf

UFBA is working with the NZFSC Board and FENZ Transition Programme Team on:

- Draft configurations of the proposed 'direct relationship' between volunteers and FENZ to ensure the relationship is workable and effective
- Ensuring local committees include a voice for our members, in particular volunteers
- Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the NZFSC Board to formally cement our role as the representative advocate for our members.

Follow the actions we are taking on your behalf at www.ufba.org.nz/fire_services_review/actions

Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill

Legislation to establish Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) passed its first reading on 5 July. The Bill takes a contemporary approach to legislation and does not prescribe how the organisation is to be structured or managed. Instead it takes an enabling and permissive approach.

FENZ, together with key stakeholders such as the UFBA and FRFANZ, are now working on the huge task of filling in all the organisational design and policy details.

Fire and Emergency Discussion Document

A discussion document on the new fire services regulations was released on 6 July.

Submissions on the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill and Discussion Document are due by **18 August 2016**. UFBA is preparing submissions and will seek feedback from a representative cross-section of our membership.

To see the Bill and Discussion Document visit www.dia.govt.nz/Fire-Services-Transition

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)

The new organisation will be in place by **1 July 2017**. Not everything relating to operations and processes will be in place by then—a 4-5 year transition period is anticipated.

FENZ Transition Project [See fenzproject.co.nz](http://fenzproject.co.nz)

The New Zealand Fire Service Commission Board (NZFSC Board) Chair Paul Swain is leading the **FENZ Transition Project** to establish Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).

A **FENZ Transition Programme Team** is now in place. UFBA will work with this team during the transition period to represent members' interests, in particular on the:

- Continued acknowledgment that UFBA is the advocate for our membership
- 'Direct relationship' between FENZ and brigades and their personnel
- Setting up of local committees and their boundaries.

UFBA and FRFANZ: A single powerful voice



UFBA and the Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to make sure fire

brigades and rural fire forces have a single powerful voice during the transition to FENZ.

At the FENZ Stakeholder Transition Seminar on 7 July, NZFSC Board Chair Paul Swain said - "this is an example of the 'new way of thinking' we are looking for in building a completely new organisation."

For more on the UFBA and FRFANZ partnership see www.ufba.org.nz/news/ufba_frfa_mou