

PROPOSAL FOR NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER TO UNDERTAKE "STUDY TRAVEL"

(Version 2.2- December 02)

The relevant Remuneration Tribunal Determination (copied overleaf) provides non-Executive Members with an entitlement to financial assistance for the purposes of studies and investigations ("study travel").

Consistent with the requirements of the Determination, a non-Executive Member proposing to utilise this entitlement is required to submit certain details of their proposal to the Speaker for approval. The Speaker has agreed that non-Executive Members should complete the following details to address the requirements of the Determination.

Members should note that approval to utilise this entitlement cannot be sought retrospectively.

Mr Speaker

I am proposing to utilise my "study travel" entitlement and seek your approval accordingly. To enable you to consider my proposal, the following details are provided:

I will be attending two consecutive conferences on the Gold Coast relating to bushfires. The first conference is the Aerial Fire Fighting One Day Forum on 21 September 2009 followed by the 16th Annual AFAC Conference Incorporating the 6th Bushfire CRC Conference from 22 September 2009 – 24 September 2009.

Detailed itinerary (including dates and times) of the places to be visited/activity to be undertaken:

The Aerial Fire Fighting Forum will commence at 9:00 am on 21 September 2009 and will conclude at 6.00 pm followed by a reception and invited speakers. The Forum will be held at the Watermark Hotel, Gold Coast (program attached).

The 16th Annual AFAC Conference incorporating the 6th Bushfire CRC Conference will commence at 9.00 am on 22 September 2009 and conclude at 3.45 pm on 24 September 2009. The Conference will be held at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise (program attached).

Estimated Cost of Activity

(cost should include fares, travelling allowances, conference fees and other training expenses)

My wife and I will be flying to Brisbane on 18 September 2009 and returning to Canberra on 27 September 2009. Some of this time will include private business.

I will need to be reimbursed for the following expenses:-

Two return airfares from Canberra to Brisbane - \$2000

Travel costs to and from Brisbane to the Gold Coast and incidentals- \$400

Hotel accommodation from 20-24 September 2009 (5 nights x \$250) - \$1250

Registration of the Aerial Fire Fighting Forum - \$475

Registration of 16th Annual AFAC Conference- \$1050 (Early bird fee before 25 June 2009)

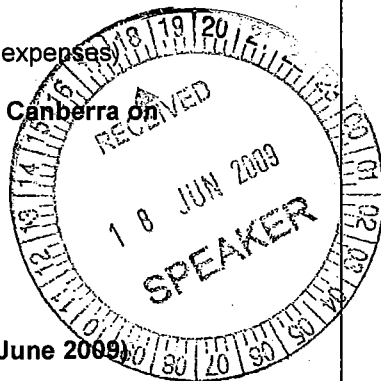
Estimated total cost: \$5175 (early airline bookings will deliver a much less total cost)

I have confirmed with the Secretariat's Corporate Services Office that I have available/remaining of my "study travel" entitlement.

I understand that, if the proposal is approved, I will submit to you, within eight weeks of completing the activity, a written report detailing the travel undertaken and expenses incurred (including any reimbursement received for nominee accompanied travel), names and area of responsibility of persons contacted, a summary of business undertaken, and, in relation to any approved training undertaken, a report on that training.

B. Smith
Member's Name

[Signature]
Signature 18/6/09



APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Speaker

22/6/09

STUDY TRIP REPORT



1383/10

Name: Brendan Smyth MLA

Purpose of visit: To attend the Aerial Firefighting Australia Conference and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Annual Conference

Places visited and date(s) of visit: Gold Coast, 21 – 25 September 2009

Expenses incurred:

Air fares	530.36
Conference registrations	1,829.09
Expenses and Incidentals	1,000.00
Total:	\$3,359.45

Organisation(s) and individuals visited:

During the course of each conference, I met with a wide range of people from across Australia and from other countries, including: Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and The United States. All states and territories were represented with delegates from their public services, their various emergency services and volunteers. The research sector was also well represented.

It is clear that there is a stronger move towards the co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration and, indeed, what could be called the development of a national approach to bush firefighting strategy. The number of international attendees and their comments concerning country to country assistance, continent to continent co-operation and hemisphere to hemisphere activity clearly indicates the importance of the growing internationalisation of the effort to combat bushfires. It became a strong theme across both conferences.

(a) Aerial Firefighting Australia Conference

The Aerial Firefighting Conference discussed a large number of issues concerning technical, legislative, policy and actual bushfire fighting air operations. A trade exhibition had a wide range of national and international exhibitors displaying a variety of products, services, aircraft both fixed and rotary and UAVs.

There was discussion concerning the research about aerial suppression as well as lessons learnt from the 2008-09 fire season and future directions for aerial suppression. Of particular note was the advice from the technical evaluation committee of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre that they have concluded that there is a role for the larger fixed-wing aircraft as part of the Firefighting toolbox.

(b) Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Annual Conference

This conference was held in conjunction with the Bushfire CRC.

The first day of the conference was devoted to the Bushfire CRC Seminar and Workshops. The seminar looked at Fire, Fuel and Behaviour, with a series of speakers discussing subjects as diverse as grassland curing to fire danger anomalies and foehn like winds in south-eastern Australia.

The AFAC Conference consisted of a five streams of presentations covering a variety of emergency issues, but with a dominant focus on bushfires. The sessions that I chose to attend had a mix of practical insights into recent major bushfire events and learning about developments in new technologies and techniques.

The sessions on recent bushfires dealt in particular with the 2009 bushfires in Victoria. These have provided valuable information on such matters as how preparing for bushfire seasons is being undertaken, how effective communications are in a crisis and what research opportunities have arisen as a consequence of these bushfires.

There were a number of sessions that brought together information about research and development projects, into new bushfire preparation and fire fighting technologies and techniques, which are underway in many countries. As noted earlier, there is now much closer collaboration between all the agencies that have an involvement in bushfire matters – from research and preparation through fire fighting activities to recovery processes. Information from such countries as Canada, New Zealand and USA was presented and considered in these sessions.

Other sessions covered such matters as planning for and implementing fuel reduction strategies. A number of the sessions dealt with the reintroduction of fire into areas recently burnt. The view was expressed that in many cases fire can and probably should be reintroduces as a fuel reduction tool at a much earlier time. These burns should be varied in area, intensity and frequency. There were some sessions on undertaking fuel reduction activities in specific vegetation types, such as in gorse and in alpine regions.

Business undertaken:

The purpose of the Aerial Firefighting Australia Conference was to demonstrate the latest aerial technologies and equipment that are available to fight bushfires. Keynote speakers included:

- Dr Matt Plucinski from the CSIRO's Sustainable Ecosystems & Bushfire CRC;
- Mike Grant with an overview of aerial firefighting operations in New Zealand; and
- Nick Ryan with an assessment of aerial firefighting activities in Victoria.

The purpose of the AFAC Conference was to enable emergency services organisations, principally from across Australia but also including people from other countries, to exchange information on the many issues that are integral to preparing for bushfires, to dealing with bushfires and to recovering and learning from bushfire events.

There were many people at this conference, from Australia and from other countries, who were very interested to discuss how the ACT had dealt with the bushfire disaster of January 2003. These discussions also covered how the ACT community was continuing to prepare for subsequent bushfire seasons. At the same time, it was equally valuable to hear how other jurisdictions and other countries were preparing for potential bushfire threats.

Conclusions and/or recommendations:

Each conference provided a valuable opportunity to exchange views with a range of experts from a number of professions and agencies involved in preparing for, fighting and recovering from bushfires. This opportunity should be utilised by emergency services personnel from with the ACT Government and from the Rural Fire Service and other relevant organisations, particularly as a means of keeping up to date with developments in fire fighting techniques and associated legislative and regulatory developments.

Recommendations

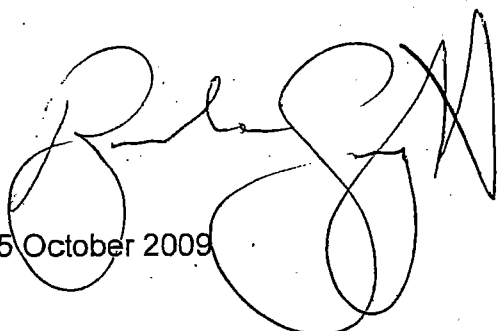
I recommend that personnel from each of the ACT's four emergency services attend the annual AFAC Conference.

I recommend that the ACT Government establish a program of hazard reduction burns that will ensures that all treatable forests are burnt in an eight year cycle.

I recommend that the Commonwealth Government allocate additional funds to enable the trial of larger fixed wing firefighting aircraft in the 2009-10 bushfire season.

Signed:

Date: 15 October 2009

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.