## JOINT NZPFU FECA NOTICE UNION/ASSOCIATION MEET TO PROTECT THE PROFESSIONALISM OF FIREFIGHTING FROM RECRUIT TO COMMANDER

The protection of the professionalism of firefighting has been firmly placed on the agenda with the first meeting of the NZPFU and FECA held in Christchurch on Thursday 30 May 2019.

It was a historic meeting in that this is the first time the NZPFU and FECA have formally met to discuss current challenges and opportunities. NZPFU National Secretary Wattie Watson and National President Ian Wright met with the NZ Fire and Emergency Commanders Association Committee including Secretary Des Irving and President Roy Breeze.

The protection of career firefighter qualifications and experience underpin the rank structure which is primary for all career firefighters from Recruit through to Commander. The protection of the community and the health and safety of our members are dependent on the career rank structure. This issue is at the forefront of the Unified Service Delivery discussions.

Leaders of both the Union and Association have the privilege and the responsibility as guardians to forge a safe and sound future for the protection of the community and our members.

The strategic discussions included the restructuring of FENZ, presumptive legislation to recognise firefighters' occupational cancer and better terms and conditions of employment including income protection/medical insurance.

The primary outcome of the meeting was a greater understanding of how the two organisations can work together to achieve common interests, and where possible work together to enhance the outcomes while recognising that at times the interests of our memberships will not comfortably align.

In unity

Des Irving Wattie

Watson
NZPFU National Secretary FECA Secretary

