

**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY JOHN (JW) WALDOW**  
**for Auckland Local Secretary of the NZPFU**

I have been a Union official for the last twelve of my nineteen years as a Firefighter. I have served the Auckland Local as a committee member, Vice-President, and not quite currently, Local Secretary. I was the Vice-President of the Northern Branch until 16 October of last year.

As a number of members over the whole of Auckland can attest, I have worked extremely hard to lead the Local in matters that impacted on our conditions of employment. I have represented the interests of all members on a number of working groups, including medical co-response and Critical Incident exposure. There is large amount of unfinished business regarding those two areas and I pledge to you that I will make these a priority when I'm elected.

I have also represented members' interests in the realm of Workplace Safety, particularly in the identification of faults and fixes for the Fraser-MAN appliances, vehicle tyres, and the pod system on the Hazmat/ Command units. I have worked closely with representatives from Christchurch, Wellington, and Hamilton in relation to fleet issues.

For a number of years, members have demanded that the Union needs to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in terms of voting. I pledge that I will advocate for and support a change to the Union Rules to find a way to allow members to cast their vote and have their say in a way appropriate to the technological age in which we live.

This is a significant time of change. It is vital that the Union be heard and acknowledged as a relevant organisation, advancing the interests of its members for both our benefit as well as the benefit of the communities that we serve, for we are also members of those communities. The Union must be modernised and improved to provide your representatives with the tools and ability to maximise our ability to progress your interests. With your vote, it is my intention to ensure that this occurs.

As a Union, we have had a period of engagement with the employer for a number of years now. While this may have merit in its own right, we must ensure that our voice within FENZ is an independent voice, not an extension of the employer's will. This does not mean saying "NO" to anything and everything the employer proposes or wishes to do, but rather the ability to consider our options and advocate our collective position and, if appropriate, say "Yes", but wholly under our terms.

Thank you for your attention and I humbly request your support by voting for me as your Auckland Local Secretary.

John W Waldow