



**Public Service Association of NSW**

**General Secretary** Stewart Little **President** Kylie McKelvie

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In reply, please quote: AW:mb

23 January 2020

Assistant Commissioner Kyle Stewart  
Communications and Security Command  
Sydney Police Centre  
241-251 Goulburn St  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

**Email:** [stew1kyl@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stew1kyl@police.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

**Re: Dispute regarding Award Breaches at VKG Oak Flats over the New Year**

I write to notify you of the existence of an industrial dispute regarding events at VKG Oak Flats on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

The union is concerned that, despite the high probability of extensive bushfire activity on these days, ROG management did not supply sufficient staff to cope with the demand for radio communications services over the period. As a result, our members were required to carry an unsafe workload, in breach of NSW Police Force's duty under the Work Health and Safety Act and to work non-stop without meal or other breaks for long periods of time, resulting in breaches of the Crown Employees (NSW Police Force Communications Officers) Award and the Crown Employees (NSW Police Force Administrative Officers and Temporary Employees) Award.

The union has raised the general issue of staffing for predictable natural disasters on a number of occasions with ROG management to no avail. We recently raised the likelihood of demand spikes during this bush-fire season and were assured by the ROG Commander that he was aware of the problem. He said he would liaise with Centre Commanders and monitor the situation closely to ensure adequate staffing.

Clearly whatever efforts were made have been unsuccessful. There were insufficient staff to safely operate the channels at Oak Flats over the new year. We cannot understand why only one channel was transferred to another centre.

We seek a meeting in accordance with the Disputes Settlement Procedures of the Awards with you to resolve the dispute. In particular, we seek payment for officers who were required to work for more than 5 hours without a meal break and details of how NSW Police Force plans to ensure that these problems do not recur.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wright', written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Wright**  
*for* **STEWART LITTLE**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**