



# ❖ NOTICE ❖

**TO: ALL MEMBERS**

**RE: MESSAGE FROM AIRPORT FIREFIGHTERS UNION**

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Please see the below request from our Fire Fighter brothers at the airports and if you have time, please follow the link and sign the petition.

Cheers  
Steve Purvinas  
ALAEA  
Federal Secretary

Dear ACTU affiliates

Australian regulations governing the establishment of aviation rescue and firefighting services at our airports are already at the lowest level of any developed country in the world – and the Federal Government is now supporting a move to weaken them even further putting the lives and safety of passengers and airport staff at risk.

Currently the regulations are such that before Aviation Rescue and Firefighting services are established there has to be at least 350,000 passengers travelling through the airport a year. In other words, any airport with less than 350,000 passengers does not have a dedicated Aviation Rescue and Firefighting crew.

The figure of 350,000 passengers is already too high in comparison to international standards.

It should be noted that Aviation Rescue Firefighters receive specialised training and are located to be able to respond within a window of three minutes to maximise the potential of saving life and perform a successful intervention in the event of an aircraft incident.

Despite our concerns regarding the 350,000 threshold being too high in comparison to international standards, there is currently a proposal by the Federal Minister and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to raise the threshold for the establishment of a rescue and firefighting service to 500,000 passengers a year.

The safety ramifications of such changes are significant, and if implemented there will be flow-on effects nationally and internationally in terms of passenger confidence that will be detrimental to Australian tourism, businesses, infrastructure and regional development and access.

The UFUA Aviation Branch is campaigning to stop this dangerous move that puts airline and airport profits above the safety of passengers.

We are asking for your support – please distribute this link to an electronic petition calling on Minister Darren Chester to stop these changes and instead have proper fact based regulation that meets international standards.

Could you please distribute the below link to the email petition to your branches and membership. We would also appreciate you including the link on your social media pages and websites.

This is an urgent issue and we are seeking broad public support in order to influence the Government.

The link below will subscribe you to a petition letter to go to the Minister and those responsible for your safety when you fly. Simply add your name to the petition email.

<http://asn.us15.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=7194dbe2c901999e2e3fe7516&id=2ba43442a8>

In unity,

Sent on behalf of the United Firefighters Union of Australia National Secretary Peter Marshall.