



VOLLYNET REPORTS

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Bazley Freezes Grant, Imposes Strict Conditions

Citing "the absence of a well argued business case", Dame Margaret Bazley, Chair of the Fire Service Commission, has refused the UFBA Executive's proposed budget, frozen funding at existing levels, and imposed tight new business planning and reporting requirements on the organisation.

In a letter dated 3 June to UFBA President Dave McFarlane, Bazley refused the Association's request for a \$320,000 annual grant, "in the absence of a well argued business case". Instead the Commission have "resolved to retain the grant to the UFBA at \$240,000 for the 2004/05 year".

She notes that the Commission is willing to revisit the amount of the grant at mid-year "should your executive wish to submit a more comprehensive case for an increase".

As well, Bazley has imposed a number of strict conditions on future grants to the UFBA, including:-

1. Receipt of written advice from the Association that:
 - * The governance and management functions of the Association are adequately separated
 - * No member of the UFBA executive or management will obtain a personal benefit from the provision of the grant
 - * The association is financially viable in the longer term assuming continued provision of the grant at current levels
 - * Any other funding received from government agencies will be disclosed to the Commission
2. Production of strategic and business plans for the 2004/05 year to a standard satisfactory to the Commission
3. Provision of six monthly reports (June and December) detailing progress against the operative business plan.