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## CFA deal to go to vote within weeks; New owners fail to resolve CUB dispute; & more

Friday, October 28, 2016, 5:37pm

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### Court case dropped, CFA deal proceeds to vote within weeks

Victorian Emergency Services Minister James Merlino [told state parliament](#) yesterday that the new CFA deal will go to a vote within the next fortnight following Volunteer Firefighter Brigades Victoria's decision to withdraw proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria (see [Related Article](#)).

He said both CFA and MFB firefighters would get a pay rise this week.

"Firefighters will receive a 5% increase backdated to 1 May, with a further 1.5% increase from 1 November", Merlino said.

Earlier this week, the minister welcomed the VFBV's decision to withdraw proceedings against the CFA, while lambasting its officials for creating "division" in the first place.

"It's disappointing that (CEO) Andrew Ford and the VFBV leadership sought to drag out this dispute and create division in our fire service instead of focussing on what really matters – community safety and the welfare of our firefighters," said Merlino.

### Union talks with new CUB owners falter

A much-heralded meeting between unions representing 55 former maintenance workers and new CUB owners AB InBev has failed to resolve the long-running dispute, with the parties making no progress on the question of potential reinstatement. (see [Related Article](#)).

Yesterday's conciliation — overseen by FWC Commissioner Tim Lee while FWC President Iain Ross is on leave — lasted just one hour before negotiations broke down.

### Former police union leader faces huge legal bill

Supreme Court of Victoria justice Terry Forrest has ordered former Victoria Police union secretary Paul Mullett to pay the legal fees of ex-police commissioner Christine Nixon and two of her former juniors after the failure of his \$2 million lawsuit against them.

Mullett, who claimed he was wrongly suspended in 2007 because he opposed Nixon's reform agenda, could be forced to pay more than \$500,000.

The bill will not be covered by the United Firefighters Union, which paid for Mr Mullett's legal team.

Justice Forrest said Mullett "should have known that this case was weak" and accepted an offer from the defendants to drop the case in April.

[Mullett v Nixon & Ors \(No. 2\) \[2016\] VSC 641 \(26 October 2016\)](#)

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