



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

INFRASTRUCTURE / FLEET NEWSLETTER

AUTHORISED BY OWEN DOOGAN BRANCH SECRETARY

Level 1, 457 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Email: info@rtbu.com.au • Website: www.rtbu.com.au

Phone: 3839 4988 • Rail: 81 2423

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Dear Member

Aurizon Negotiations Update

Over the last few weeks negotiations have continued in respect to the core conditions of the workplace in your area. At this point the negotiations are being conducted across both the Infrastructure/Maintenance and the Rollingstock Maintenance/RACS area. It is Aurizon's preference that there should be one agreement to deal with these areas as the Unions are not convinced of this, though are prepared to investigate whether or not there is a possible way in which it can be addressed in this form.

During the negotiations, in an attempt to settle a final agreement, two Unions (the ETU supported by the AMWU) proposed a redundancy compromise which had a compulsory redundancy component in it. Over and above that, this proposal also contained significant benefits for members if this compromise was accepted.

The RTBU is not in a position to agree to this particular compromise as this Union has committed to talk to our members about such significant changes directly and therefore would have to take the matter out for discussions at meetings around the State before arriving at a final position. The RTBU has indicated that progress across the board would put us in a position to investigate further flexibility in respect of outstanding issues including redundancy.

This matter has not progressed beyond that initial approach as Aurizon did not accept the proposal from the ETU and the AMWU and has therefore been withdrawn by these Unions. Over and above this, there certainly appears to be a significant change in the attitude of Aurizon since the industrial campaign in the Traincrew/Operations area commenced earlier this year.

It certainly appears now to be some desire existing within the Aurizon management ranks to reach an Agreement that both Aurizon and the members could accept. For this reason, the RTBU has suspended its industrial campaign in Traincrew and Operations area and will not be proceeding with balloting for similar action in other areas at this point.

The Unions have always wanted a negotiated outcome and there are several indications that this is now a reasonable possibility but by no means a certainty.

At some point in the near future the RTBU will be visiting locations around the State to discuss the progress of the negotiations with members.

The RTBU will ensure that members are kept up to date with progress through further newsletters and Member meetings with RTBU officials around the State in the near future.

Unity is Strength

Owen Doogan
RTBU State Secretary,
Queensland Branch