



# RTBU

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Circular No: 219/2018

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Dear Member,

## Weekly Wrap Up 20/7/2018

Welcome to the weekly wrap where we take a snapshot of what's been happening around the RTBU this week.

### General

#### **ACTU Congress**

The Australian Council of Trade Unions is sort of like the union of unions. It's where all unions come together to work out what we will be campaigning for. It's where the #ChangeTheRules campaign comes from.

Bob Nanva is not just the Vice President of the ACTU but he's the National Secretary of the RTBU.

He, along with 1000 other union leaders were in Brisbane this week to set the direction of the union movement for the next three years.

Now, if you've ever heard Bob speak about the injustice in our industries you know one thing – you'll need to step back a few steps because when this bloke gets started he's like a hurricane. Here's a link to his full speech, have a look at what he said

[Have a look at what he said](#)

It makes you proud to be RTBU.



1 Bob Nanva (Grey Jacket, 2nd on the left) and RTBU delegates and officials from all across Australia

### ***Upcoming Aurizon negotiations***

Talking about being fired up, we held further hook-ups with delegates this week to talk about Aurizon bargaining. Aurizon delegates are keenly aware of how important this round of negotiations will be and the numbers attending these regular meetings are increasing.

Bob Nanva and Owen Doogan took the time to attend one of the hook-ups. Bob talked about how important this round was and that the RTBU would work both nationally and here, in Qld, to support members. Owen spoke about how this round would be tough, but we would be making sure we were ready for the challenge.

Peter Allen has been chairing these meetings and will be coordinating bargaining for this round, working with organisers and delegates right through the campaign.

### **STOP PRESS**

The surprise announcement that the consumer watchdog, the ACCC was not just blocking the sale of Aurizon Intermodal to Pacific National and Linfox, but also suing them for proposing, it broke on Thursday.

It's obviously a complicated matter and if there's any ray of hope it's that the ACCC have also taken legal action requiring Aurizon to not close the Intermodal business until the whole thing is determined. We will keep asking questions and reporting to members.

### **Southern District**

#### ***Accommodation Issues Getting Resolved***

**QR Staff staying at the Roma Street quarters in Brisbane won't need shoes** to shower anymore! Our onBoard Services delegates had a great win this recently, closing the quarters and finally getting some long-standing concerns addressed by QR management.

Bundaberg HSR, **Mark Johns**, did some stellar work ensuring concerns around fire safety and emergency exits were investigated, resulting in an independent inspection by a Safety Assessment Officer from the Qld Fire & Emergency Service. QR has acted on the recommendations of that inspector and staff can now rest assured that the quarters will meet all fire safety standards when they return today and that there is now a thorough evacuation plan in place.

Rocky Delegate, **Cassandra Dea'th**, and member, **Kerryn Hayes**, put a lot of work behind the scenes on behalf of Rockhampton staff with regards to the cleanliness and hygiene at the quarters. When Bundaberg delegate, **Glanna Jensen**, stepped in to do a final inspection on Cassandra's behalf with Organiser Natalie Gryffydd, they were pleased to see the huge difference compared to what staff had been putting up with, (check out the before and after on the air con filters below, no wonder staff were getting sick and their allergies were going haywire!).



***Admin Delegates!***

**We've got some great delegates and activists in our Admin division, but we are looking for more!**

**We'd like all our admin members to have a delegate in their workplace that they can talk to and help address all those little local issues that otherwise tend to get swept under the carpet.**

**[If you're interested, email Natalie Gryffydd or call the office](#)**

**Central District**

***Aurizon Bulk new sign-on point - East End***

Craig Allen was a bit surprised when RTBU Delegate, Mick Freeman, sent him a photo of the proposed sign-on area at East End. We've included some photos below. Not only was it noisy, full of spider webs and generally dirty, it was full of debris – anyone want an antique bike? Spider webs are free.

Craig wanted to make it clear he's not scared of any spiders (yeah, right!), but nonetheless it wasn't any good – not up to scratch.

Working together, Delegate, Mick Freeman, and Health and Safety Rep, Paul McKenna, issued what's called a Provisional Improvement Notice, or a PIN. It requires management to fix something like this and for no-one to use the area until it's fixed and deemed safe.

With some swift action, and strong delegates they fixed a situation that never should have happened in the first place if Aurizon was actually fair dinkum about safety. So much for Zero Harm!



**2 The East End Sign-on facility proposed by Aurizon**

Both Mick and Paul are now dealing with the other issues pertaining to decent sign-on facilities for our casual members.

[Why not drop us an email and let us know what potential hazards you see?](#)

### ***Aurizon Staff Solidarity***

Members in Aurizon's Staff agreement have been taking some industrial action to get a fair deal. And you know what? They're getting somewhere.

Following their campaign, the company has agreed to come back to the table and not put out non-agreed proposals for votes if they hold the action up. They've had an initial meeting and are due to get back to bargaining next week.



**3 Aurizon Network Controllers taking Protected Industrial Action**

### **BMA**

We've talked a bit about how stingy BMA have been lately – that we've had to even seek help from the Fair Work Commission to broker a deal. It's been tough. But now we know a few home truths that won't be lost on members.

Just this week Hay Point notified that in the last three months it has broken coal haulage records – almost an extra 1 million tonnes by BMA! Incredible, result - all on the back of the hard work of members making it happen.

The real question now is – will they recognise this hard work and agree to a fair deal? Time will tell.

### ***On the bottle? Off the throttle!***

Bruce has again run into members who have found themselves on the wrong side of drug and alcohol testing. His message is simple – If you're in any doubt – call in unfit for duty – don't take the punt coming to work after a big night.

Still with Bruce – he wants to remind members in Pacific National Coal that they need to vote on the proposed agreement. Whether yes or no, it's important you have your say.

## **Member Spotlight**

Dan Van Scherpenseel from Coppabella, is a very active in the union and has led some epic battles against Aurizon his employer but today we want to introduce you to the other side of Dan when he's not leading the charge.

Dan is a family man first and foremost and along with his partner, Kirsty (a school teacher), is very active in the Coppabella community. Dan also loves his troop carrier and off road adventure camping. When he is not hauling coal or driving around the bush, he is flying over it as he is a highly accomplished recreational pilot and when you have lived in places like Normanton, Cape York and Coppabella it's not a bad way to travel. Dan is known as an all-round good bloke who enjoys a beer and a laugh with his mates. Thanks Dan for all you do for your workmates and the RTBU. Want to know what a unionist looks like well here is a photo or two.



## Northern District

### **ACTU Congress**

ACTU Congress met in Brisbane earlier this week. It was very inspiring and Les Moffitt, the RTBU Northern District Organiser, was selected by the ACTU to participate and speak as part of a panel on "How to be a good ally - Indigenous Organising". There has been a great alliance forged with the Indigenous community in North Queensland, over the past decade, and the Unions as we stood by them through campaigns such as the Stolen Wages which was discussed at the forum.

Les was also selected by the Queensland Council of Unions to participate in a "Change the Rules: Campaigning in Communities" panel and used his experience from the Townsville and Cairns Penalty Rates campaign that was launched by the ACTU back in 2014 to address the meeting. The success of the campaign at the time in both Townsville and Cairns was very much a testament to the hard work, commitment, tenacity and capacity we have, to make a real difference for working people.



4 Les Moffitt presenting at the ACTU Congress

### ***North-West Corridor Dispute***

The North West corridor overtime dispute that occurred between September 2015 and May 2016 has finally been resolved with Aurizon Traincrew members receiving their well-deserved back pay. It was appalling to witness the delaying tactics that were applied by Aurizon Management throughout the process in reaching a final settlement which would come as no surprise to our Aurizon members. Members involved in the dispute need to be praised for their solidarity and patience while we worked through the process that in the end forced Aurizon to do the right thing.



5 Sally McManus opening the Queensland Youth Hub



**6 Bryon strongly believes that strong unions like ours need to help young people understand the importance of Unionism**

One of their first steps is to find people, especially young unionists, who want to spend a little bit of their own time to help get the ball rolling on this amazing organisation.

[Here's a link for the Hub's Facebook Page](#)

**Unity is Strength**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Owen Doogan'.

Owen Doogan  
State Secretary,