



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

SAFETY NOTICE

Asbestos in signal points, boom gates and masts

The RTBU has been alerted to the fact that asbestos has been detected around the State. The potential for exposure to deadly asbestos particles have been identified in:

- various signal points and boom gates machines. The asbestos is in the clutch mechanism and has been there for many years.
- Overhead wiring masts. The asbestos is in the grey/black paint at the base of the masts

Both Queensland Rail and Queensland Rail National have put out safety alerts advising of the potential for exposure and identifying steps that **MUST** be taken before any work is performed on these components. Both companies are in the process of identifying which of their respective points and boom gates still contain the deadly asbestos clutches.

A **BAN is placed on working on ALL of these machines and masts**, unless it is for a safety critical reason. This BAN will remain in place until each area can be assessed and given the all clear.

The RTBU urges all members who may come in contact with these machines to immediately cease working on them and question your respective Manager to seek written clarification that the points machine, boom gate or mast has been tested and cleaned. Your Union is seeking for ALL machines to be cleaned before given the all clear because of the potential for deadly asbestos particles to still be present in the housings even if the clutches no longer contain asbestos.

All members who are required to work on points machines or boom gates should, prior to doing any work, request the relevant "Safe Work Procedure" from your Manager. Also, members need to be taught the correct use of all safety equipment required for any tasks on these machines. No member should take this issue lightly as **one asbestos particle can kill**.

The RTBU takes exposure to deadly asbestos particles seriously and as such we have attached a copy of our asbestos register form. Any member who has worked on these machines should immediately fill in the form and send it to the RTBU Brisbane office.

If you have any further questions please call your Organiser or Ross Schimke on 0418159114.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Doogan
Branch Secretary