It is with some regret that I have to report to members that Queensland Rail today advised that they were not prepared to continue to participate in the discussions on “core conditions” to be included in agreements.

As members are aware QR has already dropped a bombshell during the process to try and secure agreements by announcing the restructure of QR as unions were about to finish several weeks of consultation with members on the shape of the agreements under the current legislation.

The Unions’ resources are naturally stretched to address the various areas involved in the agreements as well as the fundamentally flawed restructure proposed by QR. This therefore means that the Union’s are participating in meetings on both issues on a regular basis.

The Rail Unions have met on both the core issues and the restructure with QR and other bodies over the last two days and I am sure members will naturally appreciate that some of these meetings will overlap.

Regardless of the substantial efforts made by unions to address all issues involved with the agreements and the restructure, Queensland Rail today walked away from discussions on the basis that they could not accept Unions’ priorities in dealing with issues surrounding the QR’s proposed break up of the business.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that QR are attempting to accommodate a methodology to avoid comprehensive negotiations prior to achieving their set goal of at least 34 separate agreements in 7 separate companies. The Rail Unions will be meeting to discuss the latest development on Friday and I will ensure members are advised of all developments following those discussions.

Authorised by:
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QR Walks Away from the Union Collective Agreements Negotiations