

**FEDERAL COURT FINDS THAT
IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE A WORSE CASE OF LACK OF
CONSULTATION WITH YOU - THE QR WORKERS**

Rail Unions united to put a case to the Federal Court that QR had failed to properly consult with workers over the changes to the business ahead of the float.

The federal court had already found that QR had clear obligations to consult with employees about the massive change - but they didn't.

Today, in a historical decision of the Federal Court, Justice Logan stated in words to the effect that in bringing the case against QR the Unions have done a singular service not only to their members but also to the wider community.

One of the significant comments of Justice Logan were words to the effect - that it seemed to him that there was a closing of the eyes to the obvious by QR ...some might term a blindness, wilful blindness in relation to what was occurring.

Finding that in the face of radical change to exclude workers is a very, very severe contravention, Justice Logan ordered the maximum penalty of \$660 000 to be paid within 21 days of today's order. QR now has to face the consequences of rushing to accommodate the State Governments privatisation agenda while ignoring their obligation to consult with workers.

The penalty is broken up against the QR companies in the following way:

QR Limited - \$396,000

QR Passenger - \$231,000

QR Network - \$33,000

This decision not only shows that Senior Management of QR have badly let down you - their employees in the worst possible way possible throughout this process but it also shows that Anna Bligh has stood by and allowed this to occur in order to continue on the privatisation pathway at any cost... including at the cost of workers rights.

Justice Logan commented that the merits of privatisation is political – not one for the courts but a matter for the Ministers, Parliament and you the electorate.

Now is the time for Anna Bligh to listen to the workers and the people of Queensland and halt the QR privatisation process – which will ensure workers rights are upheld.

QR has 21 days to file an appeal. **Perhaps it is time for the Queensland Government to put the interests of QR workers rights first over the fighting against having to uphold them in the courts.**

Please contact your local union offices for further information.

