

COMBINED RAIL UNIONS UPDATE FOR QUEENSLAND RAIL MEMBERS

15 July 2010

BARGAINING UPDATE
QR NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AGREEMENTS

As members will be aware it is vital that we secure replacement Agreements for your current Union Collective Agreements in order to ensure that member's conditions are protected if the privatisation of QR National proceeds. There is a very tight timeframe for this to occur as the outcome has to be secured before the sale processes begin. Therefore, the process including voting has to be completed by mid August.

The progress to date has been fairly positive but there are still some matters outstanding including the finalisation of the quantum of the pay increases.

However, we are pleased to report that the Union's have been successful in our goal to "de-WorkChoice" the previous Agreement by inserting provisions that were excluded under the WorkChoice's Legislation in place when these Agreements were created. This includes a provision in respect of consultation on Contracting Out which is close to finalisation.

The Unions have also secured agreement for a number of benefits currently contained in policies to be placed in the Agreement including locality allowance. This means that they cannot be unilaterally changed by the employer during the life of the Agreement. I am also pleased to advise that superannuation protections have also been secured.

It is expected that the outstanding issues will be finalised over the next few days and following this the content of the Agreement will be provided to members for their consideration.

The Unions will also be attempting to visit as many workplaces as possible during that short period in order to explain the content of the Agreements to members. Following on from that members' will be provided with the opportunity to vote on the new Enterprise Agreements.

The voting methods for this Agreement, given the short timeframe are still to be finalised but the process of voting by phone using an automotive system or through a personal ballot at your workplace are being considered. Regardless of the method of voting used, it will be conducted by an independent organisation.

The date in which the new Enterprise Agreements will come into force if accepted by members will be determined by Fair Work Australia but from that date the current Union Collective Agreements will no longer apply.

Please contact your local union offices for further information.

