

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 59/19  
Ref: BULK PIA Update  
10/05/2019

## Bulk Protected Industrial Action Update

Dear members,

You would be aware that on Tuesday the AFULE and the RTBU gave notice to the company that there will be a 14 day Overtime Ban commencing next Wednesday the 15 May 2019 at 0001hrs for all Aurizon East Coast Bulk and North West AER depots.

The following day the company released an employee update expressing *frustration* and *disappointment* at the decision made to take PIA. Aurizon also wrote to your state office seeking that we withdraw our action or that the number of workplace representatives at the bargaining table would be reduced from four AFULE delegates representing the Bulk business statewide to one representative representing the state. Wednesday's Employee Update also states that "the surest way to reach an agreement is through bargaining at the table". The company has now made this harder by drastically reducing the numbers at the bargaining table.

The AFULE and the RTBU made an offer to the company to withdraw our notice of Protected Industrial Action yesterday morning. The offer also included that the unions would not issue any further notices for 28 days on the proviso that Aurizon released our delegates for bargaining and agreed to the following:

- Bulk employees receive fair yearly pay increases with back pay.
- The Bulk business agrees to include the current locality allowance provisions for employees situated in Hughenden, Cloncurry and Mt. Isa in the proposed 2019 Bulk EA.
- The Bulk business agrees to drop the company claim that layover hours exceeding 10 hours are credited to cycle time.
- The Bulk business agrees to drop the company claim that could force employees to take 160 hours of their yearly annual leave for planned business shutdowns.
- The Bulk business agrees to drop the company claim to remove multi sign on points other than "by agreement"
- The company agrees to include a definition of "shed shifts" (or their equal name as agreed) to ensure they are only used for operational duties, which for the purpose of the clause does not include unreasonable periods or idle time or tasks such as cleaning, mowing or facility maintenance.

What we put to Aurizon in an attempt to avoid Industrial Action was fair and certainly nothing we requested was outrageous. The company replied to our offer stating that Aurizon is not prepared to agree to any of the conditions that the unions had sought.

We are committed to continue bargaining and we believe a fair outcome is achievable, Aurizon simply need to get serious regarding rostering improvements and to drop their claims to further slash your current conditions.

For that to happen we need to act collectively and be union strong.

The 14 day OT ban is going ahead commencing next Wednesday and the combined rail unions reserve our rights to continue our industrial campaign going forward.

One AFULE workplace representative along with myself meet with Aurizon next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Time is well overdue for Aurizon Bulk gets serious at the bargaining table.

Information on progress at next weeks bargaining will be released as it comes to hand.

If you have any questions please contact the state office on 07 3844 9163 or [statesecretary@afule.org.au](mailto:statesecretary@afule.org.au)

In Solidarity,

Michael McKittrick  
State Secretary

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**