

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 63/19
Ref: Bulk PIA Escalation
20/05/2019

Aurizon Bulk PIA Escalation – 48 Hour Stoppage

Dear Members,

You are currently showing your strength as a collective union by pulling together in an overtime ban. This OT ban is Protected Industrial Action (PIA) and we do not take the use of PIA lightly.

Last week we were at the bargaining table where our state workplace representatives, reduced from 4 AFULE members to 1 along with a state representative were present. We were in no doubt that this company imposed restriction would make negotiations more difficult although we arrived hopeful that Aurizon would drop their claims to reduce your current working conditions even further than what occurred in 2015.

This has not been the case this last week and the Aurizon officials at the bargaining table are maintaining their bullish attitude to strip your conditions including, but not limited to;

- Not including a clause that enshrines driver shift lengths
- Not including a definition of Two Person Crew
- Removing reference to the locality allowance for traincrew in the NW corridor. The company have however proposed guaranteeing the allowance for existing traincrew but no guaranteeing it for new employees.
- Include the company's position to increase layover time and credit time in quarters above 10 hours to cycle instead of the current payment system
- Remove "by agreement" where the company wishes to implement multi sign on points (travel to train)
- Implement the ability to force employees to use 160 hours of annual leave for *planned* shutdowns
- Water down restrictions on Individual Flexible Agreements

Your delegates at the negotiating table have been clear and sensible with Aurizon from the start:

- Fix our rosters
- No further cuts to our conditions
- Don't let our base rate of pay fall behind

These objectives are not too onerous on the company. If they were, we wouldn't ask. We are seeking only what is fair.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

In light of Aurizons position to continue their attempt to cut your conditions at work, the AFULE has been left with no other choice but to escalate our Industrial Campaign.

Commencing at 1200 noon Tuesday the 28th May until 1200 noon Thursday 30th May AFULE Bulk members (Freight & AER) will be withdrawing our labour and will not be attending work during this time. RTBU members have committed to this stoppage also.

We have given Aurizon management ample time to rectify their decisions and dis-continue their attack on your work/life balance. Your state office will once again write to management in an attempt to settle this industrial indifference before the stoppage takes place. If management does not drop their claims and listen to our membership, instructions from your elected officials and members are clear. Our Protected Industrial Action campaign will continue.

Protected Industrial Action is a tool that is difficult to obtain and not one that our union uses without careful thought and where deemed certainly necessary. Now more than ever is a time to stand together.

Bulk must be united!

More information will be forthcoming over the next few days including details of AFULE sub branch meetings in each Bulk location.

Please contact you state office on 3844 9163 or statesecretary@afule.org.au for further information.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael McKitrick', is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Michael McKitrick
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew