

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 38/20  
Ref: Bulk Disputes  
06/04/2020



## Bulk Rostering Dispute Update

Dear members,

This morning the AFULE and Aurizon Bulk attended a conciliation conference held by Commissioner Spencer of the Fair Work Commission. The conciliation was in relation to a number of rostering disputes that have arisen after the commencement of your 2019 Enterprise Agreement including, the rostering of Blank days and Available shifts.

Since the outbreak of COVID 19 the Bulk business has been asking Traincrew and your union officials to be flexible and work together to enable the continuation of smooth operations. Flexibilities such as working with the company to allow the implementation of a short term COVID response to two person crewing, Traincrew working additional shifts, moving off your links, lifting up and deferring outside of the provisions of the EA etc. etc. Unfortunately the request for flexibility seems to be only in one direction as the company made it abundantly clear today that they have no intention of resolving the rostering disputes on foot and simply want Traincrew to bend over backwards whilst the company continues to crack the whip.

This backs us as a union of workers into a corner. The company wants us to be flexible however will not commit to any agreed rostering arrangements, even in the interim. The AFULE put to the company a 6-month resolution whereby we would suspend the current disputes on foot to assist during the COVID pandemic, in return, we are seeking some form of assistance in the work/ life balance battle our members are facing. Thus far, this approach has also been rejected.

The manner in which the Bulk business has rammed the new master rosters down your throat is appalling and now, during a pandemic when work life balance and clarity around known workings to assist with the care of children etc is of utmost importance, the company is still only concerned about maximising profit whilst minimising your clarity about when you are required to attend work.

Nothing we have put to the company has been extreme and we have only entered into dispute due to company interpretations that are different to the intent of your EA document. We fully understand that a successful Bulk business is important and we do not want to jeopardise the ongoing success. Aurizon must however step up to the plate and be fair dinkum with their workforce.

The AFULE will not be walking away from these disputes and fully intend to fight for fair and balanced rosters in line with what was agreed to and voted on through your 2019 Enterprise Agreement.

I will be sure to keep you updated as any updates on these disputes come to hand.

If you have any issues or concerns you would like to raise with AFULE please email these to [statesecretary@afule.org.au](mailto:statesecretary@afule.org.au) or call your State Office on 3844 9163.

In Solidarity,

Michael McKittrick, State Secretary

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**