

Combined Rail Unions'

14 September 2018

Dear Member

Aurizon Greed on Display

Today the Coal and Bulk streams of the Aurizon bargaining got underway.

Despite our misgivings we agreed to trial video conferencing for people from across the operation instead of face to face meetings, at least to start with.

The video conferences were a complete failure – an unbelievable farce with some being abandoned due to delegates being unable to hear, or be heard.

There are serious doubts about the ability of our negotiations to proceed using this technology.

Unions presented the log of claims developed from member surveys, meetings and feedback.

Aurizon also presented its log of claims. In what could only be described as a fantasy play list of corporate greed you would think the company is doing it hard.

The truth is that Aurizon is hauling record coal tonnages. It's happy to pay its executives hefty wages – eye watering multi-million dollar salaries with rolled gold bonuses. Beyond that, their profit is up beyond their expectations.

Instead of sharing that prosperity, like the rest of corporate Australia, Aurizon seeks the put the squeeze on its workforce, yet again, through bargaining.

Some examples of what Aurizon are looking for:

- are reductions in current locality and other allowances
- watering down of consultation
- removal of important rights to dispute matters
- increase in the uncertainty of rostering arrangements
- increases in shift length with less notice of changes and reductions in shift loadings

In contrast, Unions presented a Log of Claims that looks for things our members and the community are saying must be features of a fair deal. Things like:

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- provisions which provide certainty of employment
- reasonable wage increases
- practical measures which allow a decent work and life balance, as well as
- appropriate recognition of the relentless nature of our 24/7 industry

What we are asking for are some basic measures to allow for a decent quality of life. Aurizon's view seems to be that despite decent profits and record tonnages, it's still open season of their employees.

Delegates are of one mind – it's not good enough – members deserve better and we know they'll campaign against this greedy log if Aurizon don't see sense and fast.

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