

Combined Rail Unions'

10/02/2017

Dear Member

Two Driver Dispute Aurizon Plays Delaying Tactics Again

Finally on Wednesday we seemed set to get the ball rolling seeking that the Fair Work Commission determine the dispute over shift lengths and the importance of route competence and traction competence.

For several months both the AFULE and RTBU have been trying to get Aurizon to agree that members should be properly route and traction qualified before they can be considered a fully competent driver who is able to work a two driver 12 hour shift.

The unions had every reasonable expectation that we would be able to finally proceed to have this matter determined when Aurizon played a low delaying tactic. They decided, after all what had gone on before, and with no notice to anyone – they would seek to further delay the process by saying that legally unions don't have a right to raise the dispute in the first place.

It's not unusual for employers to play this tactic, but normally it's raised early in the discussion so it can be dealt with and put to bed. It's insulting that Aurizon brought this up when everyone had put significant resources into attending – one delegate had come all the way from Coppabella to attend.

Aurizon gave no notice of their complaint and were required to put their case by the end of that day.

The AFULE and RTBU working together provided a reply on Thursday morning so there would be as little delay as possible and we are awaiting a decision of the Commission. We expect to be back to dealing with this matter soon, as the Commission indicated she would urgently relist the matter pending this matter.

It's an insult to members. It's not like this is a wage claim, or that people are set to benefit in a financial or similar way. This dispute is about safety – pure and simple. We are fighting for the safety of members. Aurizon seeking to again use a dirty tactic to delay matters makes a mockery of every document they send which says "Safety is a Core Value".

We will keep members up to date as this matter progresses.

Authorised by:

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State Secretary, AFULE



Owen Doogan
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