

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



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

Aurizon Bulk PIA Escalation

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. The company has openly stated that PIA will not achieve results and that results will only occur at the bargaining table.

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 conditions including, but not limited to;

- Enshrine shift lengths once again
- Add a definition of Two Person Crew
- Enshrine the locality allowance for traincrew in the NW corridor
- Walk away from the company's position to increase layover hours and credit time in quarters above 10 hours to cycle instead of the current payment system
- Walk away from the company's position to implement multi sign on points (travel to train)
- Walk away from the company's position to implement the ability to force employees to use 160 hours of annual leave for *planned* shutdowns
- Walk away from the company's position to remove 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 us fall behind the base rate of Coal employees
- Give us a fair aggregate wage increase

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

In light of Aurizon's position to continue in 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 21st May until 1200 noon Thursday 23rd May AFULE Bulk members will be withdrawing our labour and will not be attending work during this time.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

We have given Aurizon management ample time to rectify their decision to 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. 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 your state office uses without reflection. Now more than ever is a time to stand together. Bulk must be united!

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