

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 53/20
Ref: Bulk Roster Disputes
21/05/2020



Disturbing Traincrew News

Dear Traincrew,

Many of you know that I am a former train driver. I am a former train driver that often saw circulars from the AFULE or the RTBU whereby, it looked as though we were working against each other and not 100% concentrated on the Traincrew membership and improving our working lives.

I have made a concerted effort within the time I have spent at the AFULE to rectify this image and concentrate on improving the working lives of Traincrew across this state. Until recently, I was of the belief that the RTBU had also wanted to jump on board and concentrate on improving members conditions rather than any games or point scoring exercises that could be played.

Earlier this week I issued a circular informing you that the AFULE had sent our submissions to the Fair Work Commission for our Aurizon ops and AER rostering disputes.

The AFULE and RTBU had both notified the company on the same day last week (and the week prior for AER) that we were issuing Step 1 disputes in relation to our respective memberships.

Due to the AFULE engaging in an additional 48 hours of genuine Step 2 discussions in an attempt to find a resolution to our disputes, the RTBU listed their dispute notices with the Fair Work Commission late last week due to no discussions occurring between the company and the union.

Late last week the RTBU were issued a conciliation date for the disputes to be heard for Tuesday 19/05/20. I was initially contacted by the RTBU and thereafter, I informed their officials that we should wait until the AFULE Step 2 discussions had been completed and if no resolutions were found, that we attend the FWC as a combined union force to advocate for our respective memberships. This was a mutually agreed position and no further correspondence had been entered into.

Tuesday afternoon I was informed that the RTBU had taken the Bulk disputes to the Fair Work Commission, without the involvement of the AFULE, but rather, with the assistance of an external lawyer lacking the explicit knowledge of the 2019 Enterprise Agreement or Traincrew rostering.

As Tuesday played out, Aurizon and the RTBU have agreed to progress these disputes to arbitration. Once again, without the AFULE, the majority Traincrew union within Aurizon Bulk and the lead negotiators of the 2019 Bulk Enterprise Agreement present.

I have pondered and thought over the past 48 hours as to the strategic steps that the RTBU were possibly undertaking, however, there simply are none.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

This move has done nothing more than create more work for the AFULE, make our job harder and potentially create a divide within traincrew and their unions. We do not want to use our time entering into a war of words with another union, our time is far better spent protecting our members and fighting to maintain what has been achieved through the latest Bulk EA.

I believe it is necessary however to inform the AFULE membership of what has transpired and to keep **any employer or trade union** that attempts to undermine the work of the AFULE that they will be held to account.

In Solidarity,

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

Mick McKittrick,
State Secretary