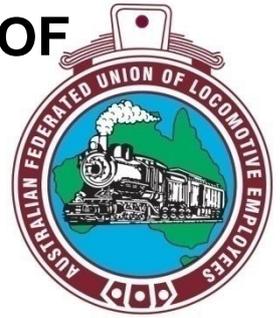


AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 37/17

Ref: Cyclone Debbie aftermath

3/04/2017

Cyclone Debbie Update

Dear members,

As you would be aware Cyclone Debbie ripped through the Northern Central coast last week leaving a trail of destruction behind her.

The latest reports are that the Newlands system could be out of action for 2 weeks, the Goonyella system for up to 5 weeks and the Blackwater system and the North Coast line, which did dodge the majority of the initial damage are currently preparing for major flooding so a question mark remains over potential damage and periods of non-railings in the southern coal fields and on the main line.

Your State Office has been in touch with Aurizon management but information has been patchy as they are awaiting engineer's reports etc. What is currently taking place is that management are approaching employees and offering additional annual or long service leave. There are some members that do not have sufficient leave and they have been offered meaningful work in the depots.

I feel that it is worth noting that this meaningful work may not last for the entirety of the closure periods.

Other options currently being investigated by the company include temporary transfers to operational depots in QLD or over the border, another option under consideration is hauling additional coal from the Goonyella system via the Newlands or Blackwater systems (if operational).

Aurizon are actively exploring these options in an attempt to not enact the Fair Work Australia (FWA) stand down clause which enables a company to stand down their employees without pay in the event of a prolonged halt to productivity due to a natural disaster or an event out of the company's hands, such as we are experiencing now.

The damage to infrastructure courtesy of cyclone Debbie is not something commonly seen. Some Goonyella drivers may remember the damage caused to Black Mountain in the early 1990's. We as a union need to stand together and help one another through what will be a very testing few weeks for some.

Apart from the rising flood waters in Rockhampton, we are now past the worst of Debbie and her destructive winds and rain. We are glad you have all made it through this period, hopefully with minimal property damage as we ride out the flooding with our members in the Rockhampton region.

We will continue to bring you updates as the news arrives. If you require any further information, or if we can assist in any way, please contact 3257 1151 or statesecretary@afule.org.au

Yours fraternally

Traincrew representing Traincrew

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Smith", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Greg Smith
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew