

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 33/24
Ref: QR EA
17/04/2024

QR Bargaining & Protected Action Ballot

Dear Members,

Today your bargaining team met again with QR representatives to continue EA discussions.

Today's discussions concentrated on a fairer transfer policy whereby repeated callings are mandated, and your selection of depots remain active for six months before another calling is made by the business for depot transfers. A process for crews to be released to the regional business from Citytrain and vice versa in a timely manner was also discussed. Although the discussions were positive, no agreement has been reached.

Unfortunately, this highlights the major problem with this round of QR Traincrew EA bargaining. Even though a fairer transfer process has been discussed between QR and the AFULE for years *and* was on the original AFULE log of claims, the company seem unable to make a decision/ reach an agreement even on a reasonably straightforward issue. An issue which incurs no cost and actually assists the business going forward.

Bargaining is set to continue tomorrow, let's hope that decision makers make their presence known.

This week we were also notified that Deputy President Grayson of the Fair Work Commission will be facilitating the mandatory pre-Protected Industrial Action conference on Monday the 29th of April.

The following is an excerpt from the notice of listing:

The conference is intended to be a meaningful process. Conferences will be held in private and will be facilitated by a Commission Member. At the conference, Deputy President Grayson can do a range of things including:

- *Mediating*
- *Conciliating*
- *making a recommendation*
- *expressing an opinion.*

The Commission expects parties to use the conference as an opportunity to make genuine attempts to resolve the dispute and that the bargaining representatives will apply the appropriate level of resources and commitment.

We welcome the conference with Deputy President Grayson and hope that it assists the bargaining process.

At the same time however, the AFULE Protected Action Ballot is still on foot. As a union of workers, may need to take *some or none* of the proposed protected industrial actions. What is most important at this point is that you **vote and return your ballot**.

Traincrew representing Traincrew

Your ballots are likely to commence arriving in your letter box at the end of this week. Please take urgent action and fill out the ballot and immediately send it back via the pre-paid return envelope.

The AFULE is standing up for our members at bargaining and are committed to achieving real work/ life improvements and wage improvements which combat the price of living pressures of Queensland Rail Traincrew. Having an endorsed Protected Action Ballot will greatly assist to expediate bargaining and find a resolution to the outstanding issues.

If you have any questions or you would like more details on the above, please contact your state office on 3844 9163, email traincrew@afule.org.au or contact your local AFULE representative.

In Solidarity,

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

Mick McKittrick,
State Secretary