

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 03/19

Ref: AER Protected Action

11/01/2019



AER Protected Industrial Action Notification – North West Line

Dear Traincrew,

The AFULE have notified Aurizon that our members in Hughenden, Cloncurry and Mt. Isa will be taking protected industrial action in the form of a 24 hour stop work strike starting at 2359 on Sunday 20 January 2019 ending at 2359hrs on Monday 21 January 2019.

Members who are at work in the depots on Sunday 20 December will cease work at 2359hrs and those members who are out on track will work their train or be returned via vehicle back to their home depot and cease work upon their arrival. We will be in discussions with Aurizon to make this process as smooth as possible.

The Company has also been notified that a 7 day overtime ban for Traincrew will commence at 2359 hrs on Sunday 20 January 2019 and finish at 2359 Sunday the 27 January 2019.

There are a large number of issues that remain unresolved from bargaining including our claim for back pay, proposed changes to the redundancy scheme, re-aligning superannuation for all members and a magnitude of other rostering and lifestyle changes sought.

We are also seeking to produce an Enterprise Agreement that removes ambiguity of clauses and provides clarity of interpretation of clauses going forward.

We have been meeting with Aurizon for a number of months now in an attempt to bargain in good faith and produce a new Enterprise Agreement that is viable for the business and fair on the workers. To date Aurizon have proposed nothing other than a raft of condition cuts. The stance of the company to not get serious about bargaining and at this stage not even lock in Bulk bargaining dates for 2019 has left us with no choice but to take this Industrial Action.

Now is the time to stand up collectively and fight for your conditions at work. Traincrew members of the RTBU are also expressing their industrial right to withdraw their labour and refuse overtime at the same time as AFULE members.

We don't take this industrial action lightly and we urge all members to participate collectively in the action so we can further your claims in the ongoing negotiations of your agreement. It appears taking action is what is needed for the business to get serious at the bargaining table.

More correspondence on this industrial action will be forthcoming including a full Q&A document released next week. I encourage you to speak to your local depot representative, Divisional Councillor or State office on 3844 9163 or statesecretary@afule.org.au for more information.

In Solidarity,

Michael McKittrick
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew