

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 36/19
Ref: Coal South Action
15/02/2019

Proposed Action in Coal South

Dear Traincrew,

Late this Wednesday afternoon the AFULE was informed by the RTBU that they had given notice for Aurizon Traincrew to take Protected Industrial Action in the form of a 24 hour stop work strike commencing at noon on Thursday the 21st February 2019. Prior to this time, the AFULE had not been fully consulted on this proposed action.

Last Week I, other officials of the AFULE and officials of the RTBU visited Gladstone, Rockhampton and Bluff to hold mass combined Traincrew unions stop work meetings with members to update you on the bargaining and the industrial campaign. During these meetings a proposal for potential upcoming industrial action (where necessary) was discussed and put to a vote of all members present. The return of this vote was unanimous in support of the proposal. If you could not make it to one of these meetings, please contact your local AFULE rep for information.

We are a member based union and we listen to the wishes of our members and outcomes of meeting votes. Since meeting with you all last week nothing has transpired to warrant escalating the Protected Action for Coal Traincrew.

Listening to our members and discussions held with your local delegates, we have come to a position that at this time, a 24 hour stop work strike in Coal South for next week was *not* in the best interest of our membership or in line with their wishes.

Next week we are scheduled to meet with Aurizon and continue bargaining for your new Enterprise Agreement. There is a 7 day overtime ban in place to commence next Tuesday as voted by the membership at our combined meetings.

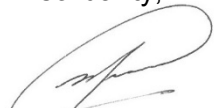
After listening to proposals Aurizon delivers at bargaining next week, we will be in a position to evaluate what potential future actions are required, including potentially participating in the 24 hour stop work in Coal South. If this is the case you will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

Although Traincrew have now been in an Industrial Campaign since before Christmas, Coal Maintenance workers from the ETU, the AMWU and the RTBU are engaging in stop work strikes next week. This is due largely to the fact that for many of these workers it is the first and earliest chance to show their strength and participate in Protected Industrial Action.

The AFULE wholeheartedly supports the ETU, AMWU and RTBU maintenance workers taking part in their legal right to take action, as they supported Traincrew whilst we were participating in our action. I have personally spoken to officials of the ETU and the AMWU and outlined the reasons that the AFULE is not completely locked into participating in next weeks proposed stoppage, they have supported our position to listen to our members and if necessary going forward, future action will be co-ordinated.

Please contact us either by email at statesecretary@afule.org.au or telephone on **3844 9163** if you have any queries.

In solidarity,



Michael McKittrick
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew