

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 82/22
Ref: AZJ COB
02/09/2022



Aurizon Coppabella Housing Allowance Increase

Dear members,

Since Aurizon made announcements regarding exiting the ownership of Coppabella, the AFULE has constantly advocated on your behalf in an attempt to secure a fair deal for our Coppabella members to remain in the area.

The AFULE was the external driving force in the original Aurizon "Coal Attraction and Retention Guideline". A guideline that subsidised Coppabella employees with 70% of the median rent prices for the area.

Since that time, there has been some tinkering to ensure fairness and recently a commitment from the company to increase the subsidy to 90% of the median rent.

As part of the guideline, median rental rates are to be reviewed and updated regularly in line with RTA data. The most recent review was completed in May 2022 whereby the AFULE took exception to the rebate amount afforded to those in a single living arrangement. There were anomalies within the RTA data that skewed the rebate for singles significantly down compared to what the real average of rentals in the area were.

Again, the AFULE commenced discussions with the company where it was agreed that the next review would be brought forward to August and the "anomalies" identified within the RTA data would be dismissed.

Yesterday afternoon I received correspondence from Coppabella ROM – Anne Wooley, which included:

"Today I have issued the attached email to all our team members who receive the Single Location Payment advising of the increase to \$576/fortnight effective 1st August 2022 following our commitment to our employees and the AFULE to review this payment.

This is a positive outcome for our team members and demonstrates Aurizon's commitment to our employees and our Coppabella team members.

Letters will be issued tomorrow with payment backdated to 1st August 2022."

Although overdue in our opinion, it is a successful outcome for Coppabella members residing in a single arrangement. An increase from \$405 a fortnight to \$576 a fortnight or an additional \$170 a fortnight.

If you would like more information, please contact your local AFULE representative or your state office on 3844 9163 or traincrew@afule.org.au

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mick McKitrick", written over a horizontal line.

Mick McKitrick,
State Secretary