

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 34/18

Ref: QR Regional Dispute

11/04/2018

## QR Townsville and Bundaberg Dispute

Dear Traincrew,

You would be aware that QR finalised the consultation for the proposed change of workings for the Townsville and Bundaberg depots late last month and have decided to go through with the proposed changes.

The AFULE entered into a dispute with the company and today we escalated that dispute to an official notice of dispute delivered to senior management. The notice of dispute is copied below, we will keep you informed of any information as it comes to hand.

### **Re: Townsville proposed laying off**

Written notice of dispute: In accordance with Clause 21 'Disputes Procedure' of the Queensland Rail Traincrew Enterprise Agreement 2017, on behalf of AFULE members, I am notifying the company that we are at step 3 of the dispute settling procedure for a matter that has arisen in the course of employment.

### **Dispute Facts**

In January 2018 Queensland Rail commenced consultation for a proposed change of workings for Townsville and Bundaberg traincrew. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 both local and state representatives of the AFULE met with QR management to further discuss the proposed changes. At that time the AFULE strongly opposed the introduction of 'lay over' jobs in excess of 40 hours and we maintain that stance.

In the consultation decision notification delivered on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the following is addressed;

Feedback - Change the timetable to reduce laying off requirements;

Response - Our timetable has been developed based on our customer's needs. Altering the timetable to meet the laying off requirements of the *Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017*, would have significant impacts on the business including increased dwell times for our customers, impact maintenance windows and require renegotiation of freight operator's paths.

The AFULE does not accept that a 35-45 minute change of the Tilt Train timetable would have significant negative impacts for the public or the business. We do however believe that crews being away from their home depot for in excess of 40 hours is significant and far outweighs any negative impacts the business believes it will endure.

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**

The consultation decision notification also states;

Feedback - The proposal is non-compliant with clause 74.4 of the *Queensland Rail Traincrew Enterprise Agreement (TCA)*

Response - The proposed workings meet clause 74.4, "where practical", to meet operational needs, crews total rostered time away from their home depot should not exceed 34 hours

The AFULE maintains there is a practical option to ensure that Townsville crews do not exceed 34 hours away from their home depot and that the "where practical" in this instance relates to matters beyond the company's control i.e. flooding.

Where systematic rostering in excess of 34 hours is used, it is by the agreement of the affected depot. That is not the case in this instance.

### **Related Clauses**

74.4 A key objective for the business is to reduce the length of time crews are required to be away from the home depot for work. Where practical the total rostered time away from home should not exceed thirty-four (34) hours.

### **Proposed actions to resolve the dispute**

The Enterprise Agreement has the reduction of laying off as a "key objective of the business". The AFULE proposes a minimal timetable change to allow crews to have the minimum 8 hours rest at Mackay and maintain this key objective.

Townsville crews have offered to learn more of the route south to assist the company in the time of operational need. We are also open to any/all alternative options to reduce the time away from home depots for crews.

**Please respond to this notice by COB Wednesday 18/4/2018**

Thankyou,

Mick McKitrick  
AFULE Organiser  
0409 281 000

If you have any questions, please contact our office on 07 3844 9163, email [statesecretary@afule.org.au](mailto:statesecretary@afule.org.au) or find us on [Facebook](#).

Yours fraternally



Greg Smith  
State Secretary

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**