

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES



Circular: 49/18

Ref: Townsville/Bundaberg QR Dispute

23/05/2018

## Townsville Bundaberg 40 Hours Away from Home Dispute

Dear Traincrew,

We want to congratulate our members at Townsville depot for standing strong against a 40 hour away from home job that would increase their fatigue and affect their work life balance. We took the dispute to the commission and today we received the below correspondence from QR assuring our members they would not be working over 34 hours away from home. Good work, Comrades!

*At the conciliation conference on 3 May 2018 Queensland Rail undertook to provide additional information associated with our proposal to vary rosters and why that was preferred to the option of varying the timetable (including SEQ pathway descriptions).*

*It would appear this information will no longer be necessary – I can confirm that Queensland Rail will no longer be pursuing the roster change that was the subject of the disputation from your union. That is, there will be no roster change required that will necessitate any of your members being away from their home depot for more than 34 hours. This was the core element of your Form F10 dispute.*

*As an alternative I can also confirm that Queensland Rail will be working towards a proposed Timetable change for north and south bound SOQ services to assist in the management of fatigue for Townsville based RTC whilst maintaining safety considerations for onboard staff.*

*At this present time, I am not able to clarify whether that timetable change will be 35 minutes or something different. The following activities will be undertaken over the coming months to facilitate the change:*

- Working with Network Planning to develop a new running schedule;*
- Discussions with third party operators such as Aurizon to ensure contractual commitments are met;*
- Consultation with Travel and Tourism onboard staff, Travel suppliers, TSD, Network and other external operators as this will potentially impact and affect rosters and schedules;*
- Queensland Rail Board approval of any proposed Timetable change.*

*This will be managed though a joint program with Network, Citytrain, Travel, People & Culture, Safety and Unions with a working group to be established to achieve the desired outcomes*

In solidarity,

Mick McKitrick  
AFULE State Organiser

**Traincrew representing Traincrew**