

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 07/21
Ref: Bulk Roster
04/02/2021



Aurizon Bulk Master Roster Trial/ Dispute Update

Dear members,

Early last year the AFULE commenced disputes across Aurizon Bulk in relation to master rosters and the composition of the 70% known working, 30% Available split. These disputes ultimately led to a roster trial commencing in September at the Hughenden, Rockhampton and Maryborough depots. For these trials, the company followed the AFULE rostering provisions, those found in your 2019 Enterprise Agreement.

Following the success of the Hughenden, Rockhampton and Maryborough trial, the AFULE, the RTBU and Aurizon management agreed to widen the trial to all Aurizon Bulk depots. This morning I had a meeting with senior Aurizon management to discuss the current state of the master rosters. Pleasingly, the company is of the position that the current master rosters are working. Employee morale is up, route competency is up, train cancellations are down (weather events excluded) and customer satisfaction is up.

These points are great for Traincrew and indeed the company. Off the back of these comments, the company today proposed to continue with the current formulation of master rosters and use the current process when creating the next round of rosters for the upcoming stock season. It is proposed depot roster committees will sit in March/ April to develop stock season master rosters. We agreed to this proposal.

It was also agreed today that the company and union officials would meet in May to discuss the progress of the stock master rosters and meet once more in August whereby the company will make a final determination as to whether they agree to adopt the AFULE rostering provisions in full, effectively resolving our rostering disputes.

I am optimistic that our disputes will be resolved and an undertaking will be made by the company to abide by the rostering provisions going forward. In the event that this does not happen, the AFULE reserves our right to recommence our disputation before the Fair Work Commission.

Finally, it has become evident that AFULE members have pulled together to ensure these rosters are a success. By us all standing together we are ensuring ongoing improvements to the work/life balance for all Bulk Traincrew. We are union strong, and we are seeing the results!

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

In Solidarity,

Mick McKittrick,
State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew