



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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Industrial Action - Queensland Rail

Today the RTBU has made an application for a ballot to be conducted which will ask members to approve an industrial action campaign in Queensland Rail.

For some time we have been negotiating with Queensland Rail to renew agreements covering workers in areas such as track construction, maintenance, train control, administration, workshops and more recently stations staff.

Queensland Rail, controlled by the Queensland Government and no longer a GOC, came to the table with a breathtaking attack on workers' conditions.

They offered a way below CPI wage increase in return for the removal of key conditions from our members which, Owen Doogan (State Secretary of the Rail Tram and Bus Union) said, "would leave Rail workers with reduced working conditions and less money in their pockets".

This latest move comes on the back of the wholesale attack on our members conditions prior to bargaining, where they *amended Qld workplace laws to the detriment of our members for absolutely no compensation at all.*

"We have been at the table bargaining directly and made some progress. We then were taken to the QIRC where we made some further progress" said Mr Doogan.

Mr Doogan said *"all of a sudden Queensland Rail pulled down the shutters on negotiating, which has all the hallmarks of direct interference by the Newman Government"*.

"This arrogant Queensland Government doesn't seem happy unless they are taking something off their workers. First it was public servants, health workers, fire fighters and ambos now it seems they want to have a go at rail workers".

Owen Doogan said *"the only public sector workers looked after by this Government has been the politicians themselves, who have had massive rises during this LNP Government's reign"*.

Owen Doogan further commented that *"the RTBU will not stand by while the Newman Government strips conditions off Rail workers and their families to pay for Queensland politicians double digit pay rises and we will use all available means to oppose it."*

"We'd prefer to negotiate a fair outcome but it certainly seems that this arrogant government is hell bent on picking yet another fight with ordinary working Queenslanders employed by them".

For further comment please contact RTBU State Secretary, Owen Doogan on 0419 769 126