



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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5 November 2014

## Aurizon (formerly QR National) Industrial Action Ballot Application

The RTBU has submitted an application to ballot traincrew and operational members for industrial action in Aurizon as a result of the absolute intransigence that has been displayed by this company for over a year.

Not only has the employer been very reluctant to release delegates representing the workers who will be covered by this agreement to participate in negotiations, they have certainly learned a lesson from the previous opposition leader in how to say NO NO, NO. They have also proved themselves more than competent in expressing gimme, gimme, gimme in respect of our members' current conditions.

Owen Doogan, State Secretary of the RTBU, said **"it appeared right from the start that Aurizon were not serious about negotiating an agreement that would satisfy both parties. Every obstacle they could was put in the way to make negotiations difficult and they continue to stretch the length of the negotiations"**.

The reason for their reluctance to reach agreement became apparent a few months ago when they submitted applications to terminate all the current Aurizon agreements in order to strip away our members' conditions fought and paid for by them over the years.

Owen Doogan stated today that **"Aurizon balloted all their workers to accept their proposed agreements and all operations and trade workers overwhelmingly rejected them. Traincrew and other Operations employees returned a massive 95% rejection with trades and infrastructure members knocking it back with an almost 85% NO vote."**

Owen added that **"this sends a clear message to the company where their workforce stands in respect of their outrageous proposals contained in their draft Agreements"**.

Owen Doogan concluded that **"the RTBU was reluctant to get to this stage but Aurizon's lack of effort to reach agreement over the last 12 months leaves no other options available to help persuade them to enter into negotiations with maturity and sincerity"**.

The RTBU expects a significant YES vote to the ballot of our Traincrew and Operational members in the first instance and further ballots of other Aurizon members will be occurring in the near future.

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