

Media Release: QR Workers Reject Below Inflation Pay Deal

Following 70 road show meetings, held throughout Queensland, where Management spoke in favour of a proposed new agreement without an opposition case being allowed to be put by Unions, QR workers have voted by over 80% to kick this Agreement into touch.

Owen Doogan, State Secretary of the RTBU, said *"this clearly sends a message to the Government that they are entirely out of touch with their workers. Offering QR workers below inflation increases for the privilege of giving away current allowances and other conditions would not happen in a free State"*.

Owen added *"the legislation implemented by this Government means that these types of conditions may well be imposed on the workers without these ordinary Queenslanders being able to fight them or even have a say"*.

Never have these workers been exposed to only a massive YES case from management, who spent tens of thousands of dollars organising and conducting this massive Yes campaign with no opposition only to have the agreement rejected by more than 4 to 1.

Owen Doogan stated, *"This Government has told parliament that employees are getting above inflation pay increase when offering Rail Workers only 1.5%. National inflation is 2.3% and 2.6% in Queensland"*

Rail unions attended a conference yesterday at the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission following the unsuccessful ballot on the Queensland Rail proposed agreement.

The Deputy President declared that the section 148 had been enlivened. This means that as of yesterday, QR and the Unions have 14 days of formal arbitration under the Act and if the parties cannot make an agreement during those two weeks, the matter will almost certainly be referred for arbitration.

Owen Doogan said *"this leaves 14 days of conciliation with an employer that the Government does not want to conciliate"*.

Owen Doogan advised, *"the Unions were stunned to be told by QR Management yesterday that they had instructions from the LNP Government to break the promises and commitments provided during the negotiations over the last few months"*.

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