



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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Industrial Action in Aurizon Set to Intensify

It's little wonder that workers across the coal fields want to ramp up their industrial action against Aurizon now that it says they are the blame for not reaching agreement while the company posts more record profits.

"Aurizon CEO Lance Hockridge must be living in a shell if he thinks a company that announces it has doubled its profit should be allowed to strip its workers conditions in the Agreement negotiations", said Owen Doogan, Rail Tram and Bus Union State Secretary.

Hockridge likes to talk about how his employees are holding up negotiations but the truth is Aurizon's arrogant stubbornness is what is slowing progress said Mr Doogan.

Industrial action in the coal fields is set to intensify as the campaign for a fair deal continues. **Today we have confirmed to Aurizon that we intend to commence a 24 hour stoppage in four Coal depots on Friday followed by further 24 hour stoppages in the remaining two coal specific depots on Monday, 23rd of February" said Owen Doogan, Queensland State Secretary of the Rail Tram and Bus Union (RTBU).**

Our members are angry. They aren't asking for multi-million dollar wage increases or access to private helicopters like their CEO has demanded and won. They simply want to retain working conditions which allows them to have a quality home, family and work life. They want certainty on when they are required to attend work and when they will get home to their families. Aurizon wants to strip these simple quality of life conditions away.

RTBU members are acutely aware that Aurizon management are on an ideological crusade – shareholders nor staff are on their mind when they systematically block attempts at a fair deal.

If I was a shareholder in Aurizon I would be a little suspicious. Are they just funding the ideological crusade of a CEO who has taken an extraordinary wages package for himself, or is he really in it for best value? In either event, we will be fighting on to protect our members' interests.

For further information contact *Owen Doogan* *0419769126*

Notes

Friday, 20 February 24 hour stoppages in Bluff (near Blackwater), Stanwell, Callemondah (Gladstone) and Pring (near Bowen) Depots.

Monday 23 February 24 hour stoppage in Jilalan (near Sarina) and Coppabella (west of Mackay) Depots.