



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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Rail Union's Victory in High Court

Newman's attack on worker's conditions quashed

The RTBU say their High Court victory today is more evidence of the LNP Government's legal and industrial incompetence.

The LNP Government in 2014 had sought to move Queensland Rail from Federal to State jurisdiction removing protection of the federal Fair Work Act.

Queensland Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Secretary, Owen Doogan said the LNP had stripped away workers' rights and conditions.

"It was another indication of the LNP Government's treatment of workers. It arrogantly believed it could just wipe out conditions by a stroke of a pen as it had such a massive parliamentary majority. Then they were prepared to spend a small fortune in legal fees in an attempt to defend this illegal action.

"The RTBU understands this was the brainwave of the then Transport Minister, Scott Emerson, still a prominent member of the LNP in the Queensland parliament who have, ironically, been mumbling about the competency of the current Government. He and his colleagues who had this brainwave have now discovered that the light at the end of the tunnel was express train all the way from the High Court station".

"High Court matters are always complicated but the case boiled down to whether the LNP Government had the right to simply pass laws bringing QR back under its own lousy workplace laws. Today the High Court said that it did not have that right," Mr Doogan said.

"We will shortly be commencing discussions with Queensland Rail and the Government about how to remedy this mess flowing from the LNP's fundamentally flawed judgment in this matter," Mr Doogan said.

Almost two thirds of the thousands of workers affected by this decision are members of the RTBU **and Owen Doogan, State Secretary of the RTBU will be conducting a media conference at the RTBU Office at 1.30pm today.**

For further information contact Owen Doogan 0419769126