Dear Member

QR Agreement Negotiations Update

As you will be aware, there have been developments in the negotiations occurring for the replacement of a number of Agreements across Queensland Rail (Newsletter dated 8/8/14).

Today your Union was ordered to attend a conference in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) in relation to Queensland Rail’s application to seek conciliation assistance in making the Agreements.

The Commissioner is considering Queensland Rail’s application and has asked for more detail on the progression of the discussions to date and a further hearing at the QIRC has been arranged for Monday, 1 September.

Queensland Rail representatives suggested, in the QIRC this morning, that they are concerned that some areas of the business may be experiencing unprotected industrial action in the form of refusal to perform reasonable amounts of overtime.

We have assured the Commission that this is not the case and the Commission did not consider that QR had reliable evidence of such action occurring.

However, the Commission did take the opportunity to advise that he would look on any such action dimly. The Union recognised that it is unlawful to take unprotected industrial action and that if employees are found to be engaging in unprotected industrial action, they and their Union could be subject to financial penalties and/or orders to cease the industrial action.

At this stage the RTBU is keen for a negotiated settlement satisfactory to our members to be achieved and will continue to pursue this with or without the involvement of the QIRC.

Members will be kept informed of all development.

Unity is Strength

Owen Doogan
State Secretary
Queensland Branch