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Rail Union maintains opposition to QR privatisation

Rail workers have vowed to continue opposition to the fire-sale privatisation of Queensland Rail, Rail Tram & Bus Union Branch Secretary Owen Doogan said today.

“All RTBU members who were delegates to the ALP Conference voted to retain the current policy specifically rejecting privatisation of public assets, and they voted against any other resolution referring to privatisation,” he said.

“Unfortunately conference does not have the authority to legally force an elected Labor Government to strictly abide by every policy. Rail workers believe the Government is absolutely wrong on privatisation.”

The Labor Government announced its privatisation plans just two weeks before the 16 June State Budget. More than 10,000 of QR’s 15,000 workers would be affected by the government plans to sell off Queensland Rail, he said.

Mr Doogan said the RTBU will continue to campaign to persuade the Government to walk away from its plans and focus on protecting jobs and maintaining safety standards in Queensland Rail.

“Safety of rail workers’ jobs, life and limbs as well as the safety of the general public in Queensland could be compromised by selling off Queensland Rail.”

“During our discussions the Government has stated that the sale of QR will not occur for another two years. The RTBU will continue to oppose privatisation of any part of Queensland Rail proposed by Labor, Liberal/National or any other Party that governs this state in the future,” he said.

ENDS

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