



RTBU

RAIL, TRAM & BUS UNION AUSTRALIA

Mr Mac Urata - Section Secretary
Inland Transport Sections
International Transport Workers Federation
49 Borough Street
London SE1 1DR

Dear Mac,

Re: Aurizon Dispute

Negotiations over a new Enterprise Agreement for workers at Aurizon in Newcastle remain deadlocked, despite the best efforts of the RTBU negotiating team to reach a satisfactory outcome.

Earlier this week the Fair Work Commission put a moratorium on further industrial action by either party to allow commission-led negotiations to continue.

The refusal of the company to budge from its positions, however, remains extremely frustrating.

As this dispute has dragged on, it has become more than just a localised argument over wages and conditions. It has evolved into a test case for militant employers, who have been given the green light to attack workers by the Government's anti-union rhetoric.

The Federal Minister for Employment, Eric Abetz, has called on employers to "just say no" to union claims for better pay and conditions. Aurizon clearly wants to please the new Government. In fact, the Aurizon CEO has promised to "draw a line in the sand" in its negotiations with workers.

RTBU members at Aurizon in Newcastle are not just fighting for their livelihoods, they are fighting for the right of every Australian to collectively bargain in the workplace.

It is heartening to see workers around the country, and around the world, rallying to the cause and supporting RTBU members in Newcastle. We have already received wonderful messages of solidarity from our brothers and sisters in transport unions across Europe, Asia and North America, and more messages are coming in every day.

These messages give us strength. We know we are not alone - the global union movement is standing beside us, and with us, in our fight for worker's rights at Aurizon.

Please pass on my gratitude to all those who are concerned by this dispute.

Yours in solidarity

Bob Nanva
NATIONAL SECRETARY