

MEDIA RELEASE

Aurizon Restructure - More Bad News

15 AUGUST 2013

The Services Union which represents workers at Aurizon is extremely concerned about the affect on employees and regional communities in regard to the recent restructure announcement by Aurizon management.

The impact of the planned restructure will be far reaching with 35 permanent positions proposed to be made surplus.

In addition, the communities of Bundaberg, Hervey Bay (Pialba), Gympie, Murgon, Mundubbera, Monto, Biggenden, Biloela and Tully stand to lose their freight depots.

Acting Assistant Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said the potential closure of depots coupled with redundancies is more bad news for Queensland's regional communities.

"In announcing the proposed restructure, Aurizon management was keen to stress that it had to improve its competitive position, to 'create a sustainable and commercial,' freight business."

"Aurizon also stressed they want to 'deliver competitive services to their customers in the safest manner'."

"All of this will be very hard to do if you have a reduced workforce because there may not be enough workers ensuring services are delivered and safety standards are adhered to," Mr Henderson said.

Members of The Services Union have been shocked by the announcement.

"Our members at Aurizon are not only worried for their livelihoods, they are concerned about the impact of freight depot closures in their local communities, especially in regard to general cost increases and service delivery."

"Regional Queensland communities have suffered greatly from the statewide job cuts over the last 12 months and this is just another kick in the face."

"We have an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement in place with Aurizon which stipulates there must be thorough consultation with affected workers and reasonable resources including time for workers to participate in the process."

"This Agreement also precludes forced redundancies and any worker who is made 'surplus' due to the restructure should be provided opportunities by Aurizon to re-skill, retrain, and/or be redeployed," Mr Henderson said.

"Our Union will be watching very carefully that Aurizon do everything in accordance to our Agreement."

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