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[workers keep airlines in the air]

ASU • QANTAS • BULLETIN
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A Dark Day for the Qantas Group

Today's announcement by the Qantas Group of the cutting of 5000 jobs and the massive restructuring across the Group is a dark day in the proud history of your airline and it cannot go unchallenged by any of us who have worked hard to make the company an Australian icon with an unbeatable safety record and reputation for customer service.

As part of the 5000 jobs Qantas has foreshadowed the loss of 1,500 so called "non-operational" jobs. It is not acceptable to call these jobs "back office" jobs as if to imply they are somehow less important to the airline's operations – we know this is wrong and we must call it out as such.

We are very concerned at the level of cuts that are proposed and how that will impact on those left behind to pick up the pieces and keep the airline running.

Qantas have suggested they will seek to freeze wages until they achieve a full year underlying profit. This is an indefinite claim and front line staff will have no influence over this outcome. We will be discussing this serious claim with Qantas tomorrow and we will report back to you as soon as we can.

ASU delegates and members have vowed to spring into action to save every job we can by utilizing both our strength on the ground and the provisions of our comprehensive agreements for consultation and mitigation of job losses that we have negotiated across the Qantas Group. We have worked together before through some very dark times and we can do it again if we remain focused on our aims.

Everyone has become an expert on Qantas in recent weeks – politicians, media commentators and the man/woman in the street – some will seek to blame us for our wages and conditions and seek to downgrade the importance of the jobs we perform and justify the cuts. We cannot and should not accept this as no one has been through more restructures, changes, adaptation to technological change and job losses over the years than ASU members.

We have taken only modest pay increases and watched a succession of managers line their pockets with bonuses made from our hard work. We have seen offshoring of jobs in payroll in Jetstar result in Jetstar workers never being paid correctly and cost millions to fix, we have witnessed the cost

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blowouts when IT was offshored when savings were promised – short term savings for long term cost that we know comes from offshoring jobs. Frontline workers cannot and should not take the blame for management failures and we will be saying this in every forum we can.

What is next?

Tomorrow we are going to meet Qantas management in Sydney with the ACTU Secretary and other Qantas unions and next Wednesday we have organised meetings to start to understand the scope of the proposed changes. We will be holding both ASU delegates and members meetings in coming weeks to make sure you are updated on what is happening in your area and across the Qantas group, and what you need to do. There may also be a time where we have to talk with our politicians too about what they are proposing, as voters they will have to listen to Qantas group staff.

The ASU will report back the outcome of all these discussions so you know where you stand.

If you want more information contact your local organiser.

State	Name	Phone
TAS	Kath Ryman	0429004237
VIC PS	Matt Norrey	0407873050
VIC PS	Imogen Sturni	0433339656
NSW Services	Jocelyn Gammie	0423041898
NSW US	Clare Raffan	0417177266
QLD	Jenny Sleba	1800177244
NQ	Steve Rogers	0417714767
SA	Darryl Anthony	0418940648
WA	Jennifer Greeney	0427007166
NT	Alan Price	0459027123

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