

19-Jun-08



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❖ NOTICE ❖

TO: SOUTHERN MEMBERS

**RE: ALAEA ENSURING MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR
MILDURA ENGINEERING STAFF**

Association representatives met with QantasLink General Manager Operations Paul Lidbury yesterday to discuss the full implications of the announcement made on 17th June to close the Mildura Maintenance Base from 15th August 2008.

The ALAEA expressed concern and disappointment that the decision had been made without any prior opportunity for genuine consultation before a final decision was announced. Unfortunately this seems to be the way the whole Qantas group now operates – consultation only occurs about implementation issues after significant decisions are taken.

The key focus of the meeting was to ensure that engineering staff are provided with all possible assistance during the difficult weeks ahead. The ALAEA sought assurances that the Company will fulfill its obligations under the Southern Australia Airlines Enterprise Agreement.

Paul Lidbury outlined to the Association that a number of vacancies exist within other parts of the QantasLink group. These include positions at Sydney, Brisbane and Tamworth. The Association has also asked the Company to investigate job opportunities in other parts of the Qantas Group and the Company undertook to do this.

For those seeking redeployment within the Company, the best possible relocation package arrangements will be sought. We have raised the relocation package negotiated for the Qantas Brisbane Heavy Maintenance Base as a starting benchmark. The parties have agreed to a further meeting on the details of the relocation package next Wednesday 25th June in Sydney.

A key issue is the transfer arrangements that apply to Engineers seeking to move to other parts of QantasLink or the wider Qantas Group. Further discussions will also occur on this matter. This will also include negotiating acceptable arrangements for staff who have previously moved to Southern from other parts of QantasLink.

For those seeking to take a redundancy package, we have been informed that full package details should be provided to staff within about 2 weeks and that access to financial advice will be provided.

"To undertake supervise and certify for the safety of all who fly."

ALAEA officials intend to visit the Mildura base next Thursday 26th June to provide a report back to engineering staff and take on board any other issues you wish us to pursue with the Company.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Vasta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

WAYNE VASTA
Assistant Federal Secretary