

QF:014/2007

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❖ NOTICE ❖

TO: ALL QANTAS ALAEA MEMBERS

RE: LAME EBA VIII UPDATE - PROGRESS

The ALAEA negotiating committee again met with Qantas on the 15th March 2007 and there has been some positive progress.

Whilst the discussions commenced with Qantas making some very firm statements in regard to the ALAEA's submission to the recent Senate Committee inquiry into the Qantas Sale Act, the ALAEA did not resile from its statements to the Senate Committee as they were intended to highlight the better standard of quality assurance and reliability of Qantas maintenance work done in Australia, its importance to Qantas' safety record, hence the necessity to amend the Qantas Sale Act to fix loopholes and keep Qantas Heavy Maintenance work in Australia.

It became very clear from the EBA groups discussion that both parties recognised Qantas focus on quality hence safety and had the same intention of working together to keep heavy maintenance work in Australia whilst recognising that both parties had slightly differing approaches to the problem's solution.

Having had that discussion both parties then moved forward in a positive manner to address the issues at hand in the EBA, in particular those issues related to heavy maintenance and securing that work in Australia and the use of part time, fixed term or casual labour.

From those discussions the ALAEA is of the view that an agreement is achievable in the near future and we are now in a stage of negotiations where Qantas needs to "show us the remuneration" and give consideration to the ALAEA's claims and Qantas' written assurance to confirm their verbal assurance that A330 and other heavy maintenance work will be kept and done in Australia.

The EBA Consolidation working party appears to be nearing completion of the Award / EBAs consolidation with only a few remaining issues to be finalised.

The remaining issues are at a stage where the parties are determining appropriate wording and interpretation. Obviously, any agreement on an in principle draft document will also depend on Qantas' offer being sufficient and respecting of the ALAEA's concerns. Once that can be determined the ALAEA should be in a position to brief members fully and seek the appropriate input. It is the ALAEA's intention to complete negotiations by the 24th

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

April 2007 and whether or not the negotiations are complete report back meetings will be held.

Members should be aware that these negotiations are progressing in an environment where Qantas is subject to a private equity takeover, which if successful may change the manner in which the parties have been able to work co-operatively in an ever-changing world. Should the private equity takeover be successful the ALAEA would obviously have to consider its options in such circumstances predominantly to protect the best interests of its members.

The ALAEA ensures all members will be thoroughly briefed on the content of any document prior to the introduction of a vote, via informed around the country meetings, emailed draft documents of the agreement and member input.

It's timely then to inform ALL Qantas members to attend those meetings when arranged as it is in their best interests to do so. All members should ensure their email addresses are up to date at the Federal Office so information can be distributed and you can have your say when negotiations are at a stage where a proposal is available.



Paul Cousins
Federal President