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National Secretary

**Tony Sheldon**

Wednesday, 5 October 2016,

Mr Geir Isaksen, CEO of Norwegian State Railways

Mr Arne Fosen, CEO of Cargonet

**By email:** [geir.isaksen@nsb.no](mailto:geir.isaksen@nsb.no), [arne.fosen@cargonet.no](mailto:arne.fosen@cargonet.no)

Dear Sirs,

The Transport Workers' Union of Australia (TWU) The Transport Workers' Union of Australia (TWU) has been the collective voice for the men and women working in the Australian transport industry for more than one hundred and twenty years. The TWU represent more than 80,000 employees and owner-operators and we are affiliated to the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

As National Secretary of the TWU and Chair of the ITF's Road Transport Section we are concerned about the ongoing dispute with our colleagues from the National Union of Norwegian Locomotivemen (NLF). We understand that the core issue is about accepting a common national standard for locomotive drivers training.

Training for a locomotive driver certification, and also the certification of other safety critical staff, is of outmost importance for railway safety. You represent the traditional state owned companies in Norway, and have so far a good safety record. This record must be maintained.

We strongly encourage you to seek a solution to these issues, as has been reached with other private and state owned companies in your country. The railway sector must not be based upon competition on safety standards simply to cut costs. The training should be standardised to facilitate a high safety standard, and at the same time allow drivers to be employed throughout the industry without the obstacles posed by different levels of safety training requirements.

As big players and State players in the Norwegian railway market, you should be a market leader and take special responsibility in acknowledging this.

We strongly support our NLF colleagues in their strike. We will follow this conflict very closely, together with NSBs efforts effort to establish daughter companies as players on the international market. We will consider further actions in support of our Norwegian colleagues.

Social dumping on safety and training will never be accepted.



**Tony Sheldon**

National Secretary, Transport Workers' Union of Australia  
Chair, Road Transport Section, International Transport Workers' Federation

c.c. Mr Øystein Aslaksen, International Secretary of the National Union of Norwegian Locomotivemen, [aslaksen@lokmann.no](mailto:aslaksen@lokmann.no)  
Mr Rolf Jorgensen, [jorgensen@lokmann.no](mailto:jorgensen@lokmann.no)