



# AVIATION NEWSLETTER

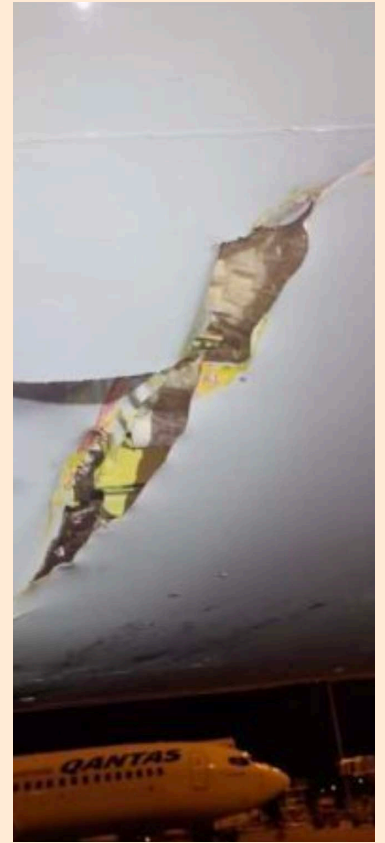
MAY 2021

## QANTAS SAFETY BREACH

A Menzies worker in Perth was lucky to escape without major injury when a belt loader's brakes failed, causing serious damage to a Qantas plane.

Qantas may have outsourced its ground work but it must take full responsibility for the safety of all workers, before serious injuries or fatalities occur. You can report any safety breaches to us through [this form](#).

We're demanding a full safety investigation, and have written to CASA, the ATSB and WorkSafe WA. [Watch the Channel 9 story here](#).



## STRONG YES VOTE ON CABIN CREW AGREEMENT



Congrats to Virgin cabin crew members on a strong yes vote to the Agreement, with 89% of crew participating to return an 84% YES result.

You should be proud for staying informed and fighting together as TWU members. This means crew can now move forward and build strength for the next negotiation in 2 years.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER. JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.**

# AVIATION AT NATIONAL COUNCIL

Our recent National Council in Darwin was a chance to have industry leaders, politicians and TWU members all in one room to discuss our plans for the future. Here's some of what was discussed, and a significant announcement that came out of it.

## WORKERS' FIGHTS FOR STANDARDS IN 2020



*“Early in the pandemic, aviation workers without masks or PPE watched ambulances and biosecurity workers in hazmat suits come into the airport.”*

*Cherie Holman, ISS Security*



*“Dnata workers didn't get JobKeeper, and those who were still working had to adapt to constant changes - like baggage handlers switching to loading freight planes.”*

*Peter Tziliaskopoulos, Dnata*

## MERGER WITH VIRGIN PILOTS UNION

One of the big announcements of National Council was one that's been in the works for some time: our upcoming merge with the Virgin Independent Pilots Association (VIPA). Pilots face similar attacks on pay and conditions to other aviation members, and amalgamating will boost the voices of all aviation workers right across the industry.

Plans are underway to develop a pilots' unit after the potential amalgamation, and we'll use our collective strength to hold both Federal Government and companies to account on safety and standards in aviation.

*“For everybody in any airline in aviation across Australia it means we're going to have our own voice.”*

*Jo Woodford, VARA cabin crew*

*“Pilots are just one part of a chain that is vital to the safety and safe conduct of the flying public.”*

*Paolo Casali, VARA pilot*





## TIME TO NATIONALISE QANTAS

Qantas recently announced it would force a pay freeze on its workers for the next two years, as well as signalling more job cuts. Apparently Qantas now thinks it does not need to negotiate pay conditions of its workers through enterprise bargaining and prefers to dictate wage conditions. The TWU utterly rejects this and will expect Qantas to bargain in good faith as per the Fair Work process.

This also comes after more Qantas bullying, with threats to move facilities and jobs tied to them in NSW, Qld and Victoria. State governments have since handed Qantas a "range of benefits" to ensure they stayed put, as usual with no strings attached. Sign our petition to protect our national airline, its workforce and the Australian community by nationalising Qantas: [bit.ly/NationaliseQantas](https://bit.ly/NationaliseQantas)



## HIGH COURT TURNS DOWN SICK QANTAS WORKERS' APPEAL

Peter Seymour worked for Qantas for over 30 years. In 2019 he was diagnosed with cancer and was using the sick leave he'd built up over so long at the company.

Then Qantas denied him his sick leave, and he was forced to take redundancy to pay the bills. Now the High Court has turned down an application to hear an appeal over the heartless decision.

We will continue to hold the Federal Government and Qantas accountable for their treatment of sick workers, and pursue legislative change on this issue. We'll also update you on the outcome of another High Court case we are involved in with other unions, on Qantas' misuse of JobKeeper to pocket workers' overtime and penalty rates.

## DECISION PENDING ON OUTSOURCING FEDERAL COURT CASE

Our court case against Qantas over the outsourcing of 2,500 ground operations jobs has concluded.

While this is a difficult case given Australian workplace laws we have mounted the best case possible, and our legal team held senior Qantas executives to account during tough cross-examination. That included the CEO of Qantas domestic and international Andrew David, the Qantas chief legal officer Andrew Finch, the former managing director of airports Colin Hughes and the former chief operating officer Paul Jones.

No matter the verdict, we're planning a robust response, so keep a lookout for how you can get involved.



[You can see some of the clips and news articles from the hearings here.](#)

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.**  
**JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.**

[www.twu.com.au/join](http://www.twu.com.au/join)

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