

Update on Boolgeeda accommodation dispute

TWU continues to challenge Virgin Australia over the requirement for cabin crew to overnight at Boolgeeda (OCM), where the accommodation provided falls short of what we believe is required under the EA. While some movement has occurred, the dispute remains unresolved and is now listed before the Fair Work Commission on 6 March.



Fair Work Commission listing on dispute lodged by TWU

As members will be aware, the initial hard lying allowance of \$69 was suggested by the FAAA and agreed to by Virgin. TWU members raised serious concerns that this amount did not reflect the reality of the accommodation or the impact on crew safety, security, rest, and wellbeing. As a direct result of TWU members' dispute, Virgin has increased the hard lying allowance to the award amount of **\$111.69**.

While this increase acknowledges the issue, TWU members do not believe it goes far enough.

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Our position is clear

The EA envisages hotel-level or hotel-style accommodation for overnighting crew. If that is the correct interpretation of the EA, then Virgin cannot require crew to overnight at Boolgeeda under the current conditions. This position has significant implications, including for Virgin's commercial arrangements with Rio Tinto.

TWU, and the Australian Federation of Air Pilots (AFAP), has formally demanded an agreed minimum standard for Mining Camp accommodation and a higher hard lying allowance for all crew operating these overnights and are continuing to pursue this claim through the Fair Work Commission.

Congratulations to TWU members for their ongoing support and solidarity. This progress has only been achieved because members stood up and made it clear that substandard accommodation is not acceptable.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please speak with your base delegate.

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