



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009



## **Resolution Number Twenty**

*Submitted by National Secretary, Paul Howes.*

### **Australian Aviation Engineering and Maintenance**

#### **Background**

Over the next 15 years Qantas will take delivery of over 100 new Airbus A330, Airbus 380 and Boeing 787 with the intention that these new aircraft will progressively replace the airline's 767 and 747 aircraft which have been the mainstays of the long haul service fleet for decades.

In November 2006, Qantas Airways announced a 12 month review as to whether it would retain major in-house engineering and maintenance operations for its fleet of newly acquired aircraft.

Currently there are 16 Airbus A330 and 1 Airbus A380 which are being maintained in the Philippines on behalf of Qantas by Lufthansa Technik. Since late 2006, the AWU has been actively engaged in negotiations with Qantas to bring this maintenance work on-shore into the Brisbane heavy maintenance facility.

Qantas Engineering employs over 5000 highly skilled aircraft maintenance engineers, aircraft mechanics and aircraft workers in 10 sites throughout Australia, including major heavy maintenance facilities in Sydney, Tullamarine, Brisbane and Avalon. Qantas is the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest maintenance repair and overhaul operation (MRO) and one of Australia's largest private sector employers of apprentices.

Qantas Engineering has built a reputation of first class quality and service since its inception, which in many respects is attributable to the skill, dedication and commitment of AWU members employed by Qantas in its engineering and maintenance operations.

Whilst the importance of our national carrier maintaining an on-shore engineering and maintenance capability is of paramount importance, it is equally important that all major aviation operators within Australia similarly commit to the development, and retention of, Australian-based engineering and maintenance capabilities. Commitments such as these are not only important for the creation and support of highly skilled Australian jobs, but they also take on immense importance with regard to Australia's overall national security.

#### **Resolution**

This National Conference supports Australian industry, Australian jobs and the continuation of on-shore maintenance and engineering operations for all major airline operations in Australia.

National Conference calls on major airline operators in Australia (including Qantas, Virgin Blue, Jetstar, Tiger Airways and OzJet) to develop, and retain, on-shore maintenance and engineering capabilities for their respective fleets, and to support



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the attraction and retention of highly skilled Australian jobs in this important sector of our economy.

National Conference also calls on relevant AWU aviation officials to continue to engage with all major airline operators regarding the on-shoring of maintenance and engineering operations within the country to ensure an ongoing future for highly skilled Australian jobs in the aviation industry.

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**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Outcome:**