



# A•S•U *in* AIRLINES

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## Qantas Restructure – Is it Groundhog Day?

**Today Qantas announced a restructure of the Qantas Airlines business and yet another shuffle of the executive team.**

A Qantas executive restructure is a bit like musical chairs – there are a couple of chairs taken away and a few people swap their chairs.

There are, on the face of it, significant changes proposed – not the least of which is the dividing of Qantas into two businesses – Qantas international and Qantas Domestic.

This is not new – those who have been around a long time remember that the current Qantas was born from the merger of 2 great Australian airlines – the blue tails (Australian Airlines) and the red tails (Qantas) – one domestic and one international airline. When the merger happened the idea was to capitalize on the synergies of putting a domestic and international airline together.

More recently we have seen Qantas segment its business to create new businesses, structures and silos— only to knock those structures down and integrate again.

### **What does it mean this time?**

No one is quite sure what it all means this time around – the ASU has already requested a meeting with management to understand what it all means practically to our members on the frontline.

In particular we need to know what difference, if any, it means in the many areas of Qantas where our members work crosses over both the International and Domestic business. This happens in airports, telephone sales, operations, administration and many other areas.

We are not alone in this – in many other areas staff work across both businesses so what it means is a question for lots of staff and other unions.

We have to approach any restructure cautiously and critically – experience tells us that is the best way to deal with such situations. Our EBAs provide significant consultation clauses when change is afoot – we will be using these clauses to ensure our members views are reflected in any proposed changes.

So – stay tuned for further updates about what this all means – we will report back as soon as we have a briefing on what lies ahead.

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