



UNION T-NEWS

7 November 2005

TRL Closure – the Telstra announcement

We have been advised that on Friday, Telstra announced to all staff at TRL that most of TRL's functions are to cease. From the limited information we have seen we understand that a small group of the 284 TRL staff affected by the announcement in Clayton will be assigned to work on corporate strategies within the 'Chief Technology Office'. A second group of staff will apparently be moved into Telstra's network engineering groups and the remaining group will be made redundant.

In summary, it appears a significant proportion of TRL's 284 researchers will be made redundant early in the New Year.

At a meeting in Melbourne on 27 October with Telstra, the Association asked senior human resource managers who were in attendance whether Telstra was planning to close the TRL. Telstra's response was that no decisions had been made in relation to TRL. The Association also requested consultation prior to any final decision that Telstra may be considering in relation to TRL. Telstra refused this offer.

This announcement a week after Telstra said that no decisions had been made in relation to TRL is another example by Telstra of the contempt it holds its staff in as well as the organisations that represent them.

The Association is opposed to the closure of TRL and believes that Telstra's decision to break up TRL functions and close TRL at Clayton to be unfounded and short sighted. We believe the announcement will lead to a loss of technological expertise in Telstra as well as causing a significant reduction in Australia's and Telstra's technological skill base.

What are we doing?

We will be meeting with Telstra on Thursday this week to discuss the announcement. We will be requesting more information on the details in relation to the announcement. We will keep members informed on developments that come out of discussions.

We are available to meet with members to discuss the closure. Members who want meetings to be organised should contact their local representative.