

Rail, Tram and Bus Union



RTBU – PacNat Common Clauses – ALL DIVISIONS Union Collective Agreement 2009 *Update Newsflash No 5* 9th April 2009

Common Clauses Newsflash – All Divisions.

Members are advised that consistent with the successful method of negotiations for the current Agreements the negotiation strategy for the new Agreements must commence with the Common Clauses which will apply to all Agreements.

The RTBU has conveyed this position to the Company, and as previously advised we have also produced a document of Common Clauses and forwarded it to the Company's representatives for discussion.

The RTBU has advised the Company there will be no detailed negotiations for any of the Business Division Agreements until such time as the Common Clauses are negotiated and agreed.

Whilst we are happy to have initial discussions with the Business Divisions about process on their specific clauses as have occurred with both the Coal and the Rural & Bulk Divisions although yet to occur with the Intermodal Division (see Newsflash No 4), we cannot commence the detailed negotiations with any of the Business Divisions until the Common Clauses have been negotiated and agreed.

To date, the company has not shown any interest in negotiating the Common Clauses to apply across all of the Agreements. What the Company has done is to issue their version of draft Coal and Rural and Bulk Agreements which contain their view of Common Clauses. These indicate that the Company is seeking to cut the number of Common Clauses by approx 50%. We expect Intermodal to follow the lead of the other Business Divisions.

The Common Clauses are a critically important aspect of the negotiations for all of the Agreements. As is always the case, the RTBU remains ready, willing and available to negotiate the new Agreements in good faith. The Company has been left in absolutely no doubt that the Common Clauses for all Agreements is the key element to be completed BEFORE we can begin the detailed Business Specific negotiations.

The RTBU will not retract from our position on this matter and is calling on the Company to demonstrate their bona-fides by agreeing to implement the previously successful

method of negotiating the Common Clauses before moving forward to the Business Division clauses.

Additional Newsflashes will be issued as developments occur, and that at the time of writing, no further meetings with the Company had been arranged.

Also it is important that we continue to get information about what the Company has put out and about saying (if anything) on what they are planning for any of the Business Group Agreements.

I ask that any such information be given / advised to your local delegate, State Branch and or emailed / faxed to the RTBU National Office. Copies of company newsletters, notes taken by you or individual members from Company held meetings etc should all be sent in. Even if we get the same information numerous times, that's better than not getting it at all, so you should assume we have not seen it nor do we know about it, and send it through.

Do not assume or expect that someone else has sent it to us.

I ask that you continue to support your Delegate and offer to assist them when needed as they represent you and your Union prior to, during and following the Campaign.

Newsflash!@Home.

If you would like to receive future information to your personal home email please email Bob Hayden at rbayden@rtbu-nat.asn.au with your name, your location, your classification and your email address and you will be added to the email list.

YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK..... WORTH FIGHTING FOR!!

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