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# ARTC EA Newsletter No. 8

22nd August, 2005

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Unions and ARTC met over two days on Monday and Tuesday last week.

The negotiations are now progressing as the detail in individual clauses is discussed.

The Unions again reiterated their view that the RIC/SRA agreements formed the basis for negotiations and while we were happy to discuss the content of individual clauses, our position remained that NSW workers would be no worse off as a result of these negotiations.

A key sticking point over the two days related to the level of detail to be included in the proposed agreement. ARTC believes that the content of the agreement should be minimal. Unions on the other hand argued that the agreement should be comprehensive, detailing all entitlements surrounding particular issues.

This detail is crucial given that ARTC policies can be changed by management, at any time, without consultation. For key issues such as occupational health and safety, fatigue management, medical assessments and maternity leave, the Unions require entitlements to be included in the enterprise agreement – the alternate acceptable position would be a deed agreement where ARTC undertook to consult unions on any policy changes with no change being enacted without agreement – this is not likely!

The Unions are next meeting with ARTC on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005. Following this meeting, delegates from the RTBU, ASU and APESMA will be involved in all the negotiations – these meetings have been scheduled for 15/16 September, 29/30 September and 6/7 October 2005. The parties hope to conclude negotiations by 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

**If members of the joint Unions or other ARTC employees require more information about the negotiations, or would like to make a suggestion, please contact your Union Organiser:**

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This Newsletter circulates to all ARTC employees and RIC Secondees in NSW, South Australia and Victoria.

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