

COAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

Bulletin for RTBU Members in Pacific National Coal Division

No 6: May, 2010

Members Threat of Action Gets EA Talks Back on Track

The combined resolve of Coal members and the union negotiating team has resulted in a major shift by the company in reaching agreement on unresolved issues in the EA negotiations.

Members determination to take industrial action to break the deadlock in negotiations, and the granting of an extension to the protected industrial action period by Fair Work Australia, forced the company to re-consider its position.

**OUR UNITY IS
OUR STRENGTH**

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MEMBERS DECIDE TO CALL OFF INDUSTRIAL ACTION PACIFIC NATIONAL DODGE A BULLET

Management requested a last minute meeting following members decision to take industrial action, and Fair Work Australia granted the RTBU an extension of the protected action period on Tuesday 25 May.

The RTBU negotiating team met with Pacific National management in Newcastle on Thursday May 27, in a final attempt to reach agreement in the EA negotiations. The meeting finally reached an 'in principle' agreement just hours before planned industrial action was to commence.

Negotiations progressed a number of unresolved issues including concerns around the future establishment of a new depot at Greta, a number of depot specific issues, conditions covering Support employees as well as other clauses that had not been agreed.

The negotiations also resulted in the company agreeing to the Union's wage claim of 15% over 3 years – in genuine wage increases.

What Has been Agreed?

The main features of the draft EA include:

- + 15% wage increase over 3 years – including back pay from 1 July 2009
- + Wage increases consist of 3% back pay to July 2009, 5% increase in July 2010, 5% in July 2011 and 1% each year in fuel savings
- + Level 12 drivers to move to Level 14 on new classification structure
- + Level 12 reclassified from 1 July 2009, and receive new rate as one off payment
- + No Lift Up provisions
- + Terminal Operator classifications and rostering conditions protected
- + Scope of agreement to cover existing Support employees
- + Agreement on Depot Specific conditions in Port Kembla, Hunter Valley, Antiene, Lithgow and Mudgee
- + Provision for protections in the establishment of new depots such as Greta or Gunnedah

INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON HOLD

At a meeting and telephone hook-up of members following Thursday's negotiations, members reserved their right to take industrial action if the EA negotiation process breaks down. The union and company have agreed to hold depot information sessions for members to discuss and identify any major issues with the draft EA. These will form the basis of additional negotiations if required, before a final draft document is voted on by members

Authorised by Bob Newham, Divisional Secretary

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