

The RTBU had its first pre-negotiation meeting with Pacific National managers on Monday 12 September.

The process has commenced and we now have a better idea of the company's intentions for the negotiations.

Attendees were:

RTBU: Allan Barden, Alex Claassens, Ashley Waddell, John Curley, Brian Head & Jessica Robertson

Pacific National: Dave Mayo, Matt Tamplin, Michael Brown & Jeff Crowe

It will not surprise Members that Part A of the Agreement was the contentious issue. The company want separate agreements across the company's divisions. The RTBU Members' preference is to maintain the current position i.e. similar Part A's across the company with different Part B, C, D etc.

The company has said that while they want separate agreements across Part A, they are prepared to keep common conditions across all agreements. Another issue was the common expiry dates, with the Coal Division wanting to keep their options open on this.

The company has also agreed to at least two meetings (at the beginning and at the end of the negotiation phase) being held at the R.T.B.U National Office with delegates from across different company divisions.

In addition to this they have also agreed to the booking-off on base pay for the negotiation delegates to be trained. They have also agreed to release on base pay for the delegates to attend the negotiation similar to last time. These issues will be further discussed at a teleconference on 11 October.

On another matter, the response to the survey has been fantastic. We will be able to develop a strong log of claims from your feedback.

If you want to have your say, we remind you to get surveys returned to the National Office by next Wednesday, 28 September. Please email pn@rtbu.org.au or phone 02 9310 3966 or fax 02 9319 2096 with any questions or updates you have about the negotiations or the survey.

Bob Nanva

National Secretary

PS. We think you deserve a fair and decent outcome on the next Pacific National EA, and we will be working hard with you to achieve this.