

pn nsw coal ea 2012

members' information newsletter



Meeting Number Six

Just prior to the meeting on May 1st, management delivered their version of a new EA. Needless to say it was vastly different to the one the RTBU presented to management in March and was accompanied by a cover letter that stepped out their basic views on how they perceive the current climate and painted an optimistic view of some of their proposed changes. As with all such cover letters they need to be read in conjunction with the document they are covering.

When your negotiating team read their document it was obvious PN were looking through their rose tinted glasses when composing this letter. Although the letter is upbeat about *Work Life Balance, Flexibility, Standardisation and Wage Increases*, if this document were accepted as it now stands, Members would be far worse off. After initial separate familiarisation meetings the parties got down to Negotiations.

It was extremely disappointing to discover that some previously agreed clauses were now altered, which changed the clause's overall intent so therefore no longer agreed, but that being the nature of the beast we made note and moved on.

Some of the companies proposals discussed were;

- Change to the current document structure by removing classification specific parts
- Removal of the current Support Classification structure thereby removing a large amount of support staff from EA coverage, (The company was advised this will never be accepted)
- Proposal that all Train Crew Depot Specific clauses be removed and a common work principle are used instead. This would result in all the previously agreed life work balances evaporating and their proposal that all shifts would be up to 12 hours with a requirement of reporting for further work, if at work for less than 9 hours, would mean the daily shift length increasing from 8 hours to 12 hours without any Family/Leisure offsets, your RDOs would become recovery days.
- Refusal to accept the RTBU'S proposal of including new clauses regarding Drug & Alcohol Testing, Fatigue Management, Recording of Communication Equipment and Health & Safety Representation, the company's belief is they are policies only, which of course, can be changed without consultation at any time.
- Proposal to again change the Driver Classification Structure and the Excess Travel provisions, things that were surrounded with angst at the last negotiations.

After further negotiations on Wednesday there was some common ground discovered but the gaps seem to be just as far as they were last time. As indicated, there are two more negotiating sessions scheduled this month and being the eternal optimists your negotiating team is hopeful that meaningful outcomes can be achieved during those meetings. As always you will be kept up to date by your Negotiating Team.

For Information go to
www.locoexpress.com.au

Your EA Negotiating Team

Allan Nutley
 Wayne Pallant
 Greg Brooking
 Dale Walsham
 Greg Cameron
 Bob Hayden
 Ian Wyllie
 Steve Wright
 John Curley

Additional Depot Delegates
 will be included, when Depot
 Specific items are being
 negotiated.

Proposed Meetings

DATE	VENUE
7 th May	Parramatta
22 nd /23 rd May	Newcastle

Are Your Details Up To Date
 Members are reminded that it
 is vitally important that your
 mailing address, phone
 numbers & email address are
 up to date – Contact:

Steve Wright at
swright@rtbu-nsw.asn.au or
 0418 699 642
 to ensure everything is correct

Do you want to receive updates
 sent directly to you? Email
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 (no work addresses) to
pncoalea@rtbu-nsw.asn.au