

pn nsw coal ea 2012

members' information newsletter



Meeting Number 10

Sorry PN! There is no Meat Left on the Bone!

Members, Unfortunately after this week's negotiation, your EA team has little progress to report. Last week's meetings were extremely frustrating with PN management stalling progress by continually changing their mind on previously agreed clauses and then providing further proposals and trying to trade agreed issues off against other areas and classification specific issues. Through out the discussions PN continually stated that the RTBU were giving nothing in return for what was proposed. This is not entirely true, as the RTBU has previously indicated a number of areas we were prepared to move on, however it was made very clear to PN we are not prepared to give up core conditions that members have fought long and hard for, over many years to achieve some sort of fairness and life balance.

PN seem fixated on a couple of issues, one being to force maintainers to drive locos and wash them. So far the Dollars offered for this task is far from what you would consider as fair and reasonable for the additional skills and qualifications needed. Another issue being, standardising train crew shift lengths. On this, the RTBU has put several proposals to PN to achieve a fairer and balanced situation however PN continue to want train crew to be available for 11 hours on rostered days but only be required to pay eight and then book people off when hours are achieved early in the cycle. PN admitted that this was one of the major issues that were raised with them at their communications forum. Their response so far seems to be (and was advised to us several times yesterday by one of the negotiators) ***"that's what they signed up for"***

After ten official meetings over several months approximately only about a third of clauses have been agreed upon. At the end of last week's meetings the RTBU advised PN, we believe the best way forward in negotiations is to negotiate clause by clause and that it was not productive to negotiate by continually renegeing on an agreed position to trade it off against another area and that we will not be trading off one classification or area against another.

In an email to employees on the 19th April from the Asciano CEO regarding a long and protracted EA negotiation in another part of the Asciano business, the CEO stated *"It saddens me that this process took so long because of these differences, and we will be doing everything in our power to ensure that we work more closely with our employees and union representatives in the future to ensure that this never reoccurs."* **It appears this message has not yet reached the PN Coal Management team!** Members will be advised of progress as it happens.

Your EA Negotiating Team

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

Proposed Meetings

DATE	VENUE
19 & 20 June	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 phone: 0418 699 642 to ensure everything is correct

Do you want to receive updates sent directly to you? Email your personal email address (no work addresses) to:

swright@rtbu-nsw.asn.au

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