

Intermodal train crew negotiations stalled

The Intermodal train crew negotiations have been going since January 24. Along the way progress had been made, especially on the important issues of the barracks detention and duty cycle/public holidays/linehaul overtime.

Progress gathered apace following the Depot Membership Tour where members heard from their Negotiating Committee and the Company on the progress of negotiations.

Your negotiating team now feels, however, that the negotiating process has gone backwards and could indeed stall. We still have an in-principle agreement on barracks, but after getting close to reaching an in-principle agreement on duty cycle/public holidays/linehaul overtime, the Company now seems to be moving away from their previously stated position.

This is not the first time the Company has moved away from an in-principle agreement and we have started to question how seriously they are taking the membership's position.

Other news: Port Augusta

There has been interest from across the depots about the auto-lay back issue at Port Augusta. Our comrades in Port Augusta have been conducting an education campaign to stop auto-lay back, whereby drivers were expected to wait around without a call to notify them of the intent to lay back.

This is contrary to the lift-up and lay back provisions in your Agreement. The education campaign seeks to inform the membership about their rights and conditions under the current EA. Well done to the delegates and members at Port Augusta for their hard work and commitment to enforce their rights and conditions. And the word on the street is that Port Augusta drivers have done their bit for the Australian textile manufacturing industry with the sale of union shirts sky rocketing along side of this issue.