

Negotiation process in the balance

The last meeting for negotiations on the Intermodal Train Crew Agreement was towards the end of November. Since that meeting, and after a delegates' hook-up and many one on one conversations with members where feedback was sought, Your Negotiating Team have been attempting to resolve the outstanding matters.

The primary outstanding matters are:

- **DOO.** As mentioned in previous Newsflashes, the company wants to lower the standard on cab noise. Currently the decibel limitations in the Agreement are 81 db for a non vestibule type loco and 75 for a vestibule.
- **Wages.** The company continues to insist on 4%, 4% and 4% but the Union's position is for 5%, 5% and 5%.

After a delegates' hook-up on 22 November, and subsequent one on one conversations with delegates and members across the depots, it is clear that the majority support the proposed Agreement, providing the above two issues are resolved.

This is a process of consensus, and Your Negotiating Team will be guided by what the majority of members across the 14 depots want. To that end, we will continue to seek feedback from the membership.

There will be a drafting meeting in Melbourne on 19 December, where several of Your Negotiating Team members will meet to continue to draft clauses.

At this meeting we will also include two of the Melbourne delegates to discuss the DOO issue in more depth. The wage negotiations will be left to the senior officials and senior management, **but no decision** will be made without consultation with the membership first.

If you have any questions about any of these matters please call the National Office on 02 9310 3966 or email pn@rtbu.org.au

Your Negotiating Team