



# RTBU

RAIL, TRAM & BUS UNION AUSTRALIA

# PN MEMBERS' EA INTERMODAL UPDATE NO.15

## Intermodal negotiations at a standstill

As indicated in Newsflash 14, the negotiation process for Intermodal Train Crew came to abrupt halt on 19 December when PN put a significant new claim on the table. That claim was for DOO relief on the mainline for a 4 hour radius around any terminal.

The members of Your Negotiating Team who were present indicated that this claim was not going to be palatable.

This means that the two remaining unresolved matters are wages and this DOO claim.

After discussion with various depots and a delegates' hook-up 23 January to discuss our options going forward, we are now considering our next move, one possibility being industrial action.

We have also been contacted by the company recently and they have indicated that they are willing to keep discussing the matters.

### UNPROTECTED INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The National Office has received calls from some enthusiastic depots about their options at this time. While industrial action during a bargaining period is legal under the Fair Work Act, and we are considering exercising that right, we must remind members that any unprotected industrial action is not endorsed by Your Union.

The National Office is more than happy to clarify your rights and obligations relating to industrial action. If you have any questions or concerns about it you can contact the National Office's Legal Officer, Thomas Costa, by phoning 02 9310 3966.

### PN COAL EA

The negotiations for a PN Coal EA have not only reached an impasse and strike action looks likely, but that division of the company has adopted a hostile, militant anti-union approach that includes tactics such as:

- bullying and intimidating its workers over the possibility of taking industrial action by offering those who don't take action a better offer
- threatening to reduce the wage offer incrementally if agreement is not reached by certain dates
- getting major coal companies like Xstrata and Whitehaven to write to the union threatening us with law suits if we take industrial action

On the matter of the bullying and intimidation, Your Union is taking PN Coal to the Federal Court because this kind of discrimination is deemed adverse action under the Fair Work Act, which is an offence.

Your Union is not going to take a backwards step in protecting the rights of all members.

Your Negotiating Team