



# RTBU NSW LOCO DIVISION NEWSFLASH

October 13, 2021

## RAILTRAIN – THE LATEST

### Rail Shuttle Services

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, advice was received that the Railtrain subsidiary Rail Shuttle Services (**RSS**) proposed enterprise agreement was voted down for the second time. The vote was a clear NO vote,

**21 NO and 3 Yes.**

Before the vote, RSS Members were clear in telling management, that what was proposed was unacceptable, yet RSS ignored them and proceeded with the vote. Shortly after the announcement of the results, Railtrain wrote to the Fair Work Commission to request the Commission relist the previous good faith bargaining case brought by the Union, alleging that the RTBU misled RSS Employee's in a recent newsletter, and this caused members to vote no. RSS continues to blame everyone but themselves for their failed enterprise agreement. The RTBU Locomotive Division welcomes the opportunity to examine RSS' conduct before the Commission and denies that the Union has any case to answer.

The Fair Work Commissioner has set up a directions hearing for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

Since Friday it has become very evident to members exactly why the proposed RSS agreement is unacceptable. RSS have now decided they don't need to provide any more training and have therefore left some casual employees at home unpaid with no advice as to when they will next be required. One could say this is sour grapes because the affected Casual Employees saw through the \$1500 sign on bribe and voted no, however it clearly demonstrates why strong protections and job security are necessary in the enterprise agreement. RSS want to be able to treat employees like this at any time, to have the ability to leave people at home with no work, no pay, and no idea when their next shift will be. This type of behavior cannot be allowed to become the norm.

RSS now has no option but to come back to the table and take seriously, the items and pay rates members are concerned about. Items such as Rostering Conditions, Site Rates, Shift Penalties, Training Bonds and protections for Casual Employees.

No Further meetings are yet scheduled. When we hear back from RSS we will let you know.

### Hunter Port Services Proposed Enterprise Agreement and the proposed NSW Operations Agreement.

As we have previously reported, the RTBU Locomotive Division has made very clear to Railtrain that there is absolutely no reason and no logic in progressing the separate Hunter Port Services Enterprise Agreement as it only applies to four people and their roles can easily be covered and better protected in the NSW Enterprise Agreement.

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Railtrain have maintained their position and have refused to even meet to discuss the Proposed NSW Agreement until the Hunter Ports Agreement has been completed. We wrote to Railtrain last Friday afternoon and raised concerns that the company is not bargaining in good faith as required by the Fair Work Act. Considering Railtrain itself asked for the matter to be relisted at the Fair Work Commission, we will be now raising our concerns in the FWC on Monday to attempt to get negotiations underway.

It's been 4 years since the RAILTRAIN PTY LTD SA/VIC/TAS/ACT/NSW/QLD/NT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT 2013 expired and members/employees received a pay rise. It's now well and truly time for all those RTBU members who are Railtrain employees across NSW (that are not in RSS) to start getting interested and active, and to show Railtrain you want **a decent agreement and a decent pay rise**. It's time for those employees who are not yet members to **join the Union**. Being a member is the only way you can take industrial action if and when needed as decided by members. The way Railtrain have been conducting themselves thus far, it may well be necessary to initiate this important workplace right in order to get a decent enterprise agreement.

Over the coming weeks Organisers will be out around the various depots and organising meetings and talking with members and any interested workers. We will shortly be conducting a survey to construct your Log of Claims for your NSW Agreement. We will do this via survey monkey and will be in touch again soon on how you can complete the survey. In the interim please talk to your work mates and consider whom among you would be good leaders to work with the RTBU to negotiate your agreement. Consider becoming part of the team. Contact your local delegate or your organiser for further detail.

## JOIN THE RTBU TODAY



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