



LCexpress

eBULLETIN OF THE RTBU NSW LOCOMOTIVE DIVISION DELEGATE

No 3: April, 2008

Delegate Training

National Framework for Driver Performance

A project has been established to identify existing Driver Performance monitoring and feedback systems in all states. A standardised system will then be developed which is based on nationally agreed standards and provides feedback to the Drivers with an aim to reduce fuel consumption, equipment maintenance and improve passenger comfort.

As with any project that affects our members, the NSW Locomotive and National offices will be involved in this project.

Pacific National and Comcare

As previously advised Pacific National is intending to move all of its employees from the existing state system to the Federal Comcare system.

At a recent meeting Asciano stated that it was still their intention to move to Comcare.

They have given an understanding that the employees will be no worse off and may even provide increased benefits. They have also advised that they will also provide a journey claims benefit to all employees.

But as always the detail remains in the fine print. So the RTBU will continue to negotiate and ensure that our members are not disadvantaged and get the best outcome possible.

The Divisional Council have decided that in order for the Locomotive Division to continue to meet the challenges, it is necessary to introduce Depot/ Workplace Organiser specific training and the training has to reflect the current structures and follow Divisional and Branch plans.

We have already set three mandatory 2 day training sessions 25-26th June, 13-14th August & 15-16th October with the intention of setting a fourth so that we can train all existing delegates this year.

Rail Regulators

Draft NSW Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) & (General) Regulations 2007)

The RTBU & Industry comments have been received by ITSRR in relation to these regulations and they have provided a document (*available on their website*) of the status of the comments. It is anticipated that the regulations are currently with Cabinet.

National Transport Commission

The National Transport commission is also working on a number of projects which are listed below;

- National Policy Statement for Recognition of Industry Standards.
- 5 year review of National Road and Rail Health Assessments
- Framework for licensing of Train Drivers
- Proposed Guidance for T and H Rail Sector
- Maintenance of Rail Safety Legislative Reforms

As always as a major stakeholder in the Rail Industry the R.T.B.U will be representing the members and ensuring that our issues are clearly represented and taken into consideration

Team Leader Dispute.

The outstanding issues reported in the March Loco Express are now being debated before the AIRC. It was determined at a Conciliation Conference that the parties clearly put their issues in writing to one another prior to a report back to the Commission.

A flurry of correspondence has occurred between the RTBU and RailCorp with the RTBU awaiting a final response by RailCorp on a series of comprehensive issues before a report back to the Commission with a further view on arbitration on the matter of whether RailCorp can buy out of an Agreement.

Driver Trainer Position Description Dispute.

This dispute centres on RailCorp's view that they can unilaterally change the position description of a driver trainer without their consent.

The RTBU rejects this view and believes that position descriptions are in fact a "Condition of Employment" and therefore require agreement before any change can occur. This matter is now in the Commission and will also be arbitrated on.

Consolidation of Rostering Conditions Dispute.

This issue, which is a requirement of the current EA, has been ongoing since before the certification of the EA, is the attempt to consolidate all known roosting conditions and agreements into one book.

Unfortunately, RailCorp has attempted during this time to "reinterpret" hard won conditions. This matter has been to the AIRC for conciliation and a follow up meeting with management has occurred.

Management has sent their final correspondence on the matter to the R.T.B.U, which we are currently reviewing prior to a further AIRC meeting on the outstanding items.

Regional Security Meetings

Since the last Loco Express, and despite undertakings from RailCorp management, the regional security meetings have still not taken place. The RTBU has sent correspondence to RailCorp demanding that they honour their commitment and commence these meetings.

Early Consultation on Xmas, New Year and Special Event Rostering

On a brighter note RailCorp has now agreed on early consultation for Xmas, New Years and Special event roosting, for example World Youth Day.

This will, we hope, provide certainty so that our members will be able to enjoy these special occasions with their families.

Pacific National Update

Grain crisis

As previously reported the numerous meetings that have been held in regard to this issue appear to have paid off with confirmation from Pacific National that the forced redundancies have been put on hold subject to a successful outcome for them in contract negotiations

Hunter Valley Local Consultative Committee

On a positive note the Northern Coal Division Management team have introduced a bi-monthly consultative meeting that has been established to allow for open communication with the management team to allow for discussions of issues so that they can be resolved before it causes significant unrest in the workplace.

Future Agreement Negotiations

It is anticipated that we will shortly be entering into formal negotiations with Genesee & Wyoming, Southern & Silverton and Independent Railways Australia as always the message to our members in those companies is that we seek your support to deliver the best Collective Agreement possible in the rail industry at this time. But we want you to know it will take all our participation to get the best result. We intend to put you as close to the action as possible by:

- ✓ Offering union training to interested delegates/members
- ✓ Seeking your help to develop and endorse a log of claims
- ✓ Nominating individuals to be on the Negotiating Team
- ✓ Helping to circulate newsletters about the progress of the campaign
- ✓ Attending meetings called to seek your endorsement and/or direction on the issues.

Authorised by Alex Claassens, Divisional Secretary

NSW RTBU Locomotive Division on (02) 9264 3400; Toll free: 1800 672022 or fax (02) 9264 7679
Website : www.rtbu-nsw.asn.au

Eveleigh Retirement Dinner

Help us celebrate our 52nd retirement dinner

3RD MAY 2008

Retired \$35 12PM Worker \$40

THE EPPING CLUB

45-47 Rawson Street Epping

**Cost includes drinks, dinner & donation
towards presentations.**

Retiree

Bill Winslett



Ticket Sellers

Phil Bardsley, Glen Sorbello, John Ralston, Paul Manthorpe, Stan Taylor,
Graham Beavan, Kim Andronicus & Julie Puttock.

Contact

Sally Kelton: 0407 233 447 or 9871 5009

Graham Beavan: 0402 208 021 or 8704 3629

You may pay at the door - but please contact one of the above so
numbers can be compiled

