

Rail, Tram and Bus Union



RTBU – PacNat Intermodal Member's Union Collective Agreement 2009 **Update *Newsflash* No 4** 9th April 2009

As members would be aware, we recently sent a document to Pacific National outlining our position on those clauses we saw as common across all 6 Enterprise Agreements as was the case with previous negotiations, and also advising the Company that we are prepared to meet with the Company to discuss and work through the document.

Whilst the Company acknowledged receipt of the document, they have to date shown no interest in meeting with your Union.

In addition to the above we recently sent an email to the General Manager Intermodal Division as follows:

Could you please advise when you will be in a position to meet for an initial discussion on the Intermodal Collective Agreement, as other Business Groups have started and initial discussions, yet there is still nothing planned for Intermodal.

We have already provided an RTBU – Part A Common Clause document to Pacific National and advised that we were prepared to meet to discuss its contents and the way forward, but are yet to hear from Pacific National.

I look forward to hearing from you in regards to the above and that once again advise that the RTBU is prepared to meet with yourself at the earliest opportunity, should you see the matter being of some importance.

We have had no response to the above and even though other Business Divisions have commenced initial negotiations they cannot move forward until the Common Clause situation has been discussed and agreement reached on the way forward, yet the Company seems to be in no hurry when it comes to Intermodal.

At a time when the Company is seeking either a partial or full sale of the Company, you would expect that they would be seeking to put in place new industrial arrangements, thus giving potential bidders some satisfaction that they have Industrial Arrangements in place for the next number of years.

As we have previously advised, the current industrial arrangements / agreements which all have nominal expiry dates of the 30th June 2009 have been in place for nearly 3 years without much industrial unrest or disputation & Members have made it clear that they do not see a need for drastic change at a time of industrial stability and understanding of either parties obligations.

We understand from the position being taken by the Coal and R&B Divisions that they are seeking some major changes to current working arrangements, and also a large reduction in the number of clauses they see as Common.

This will no doubt be a similar position taken by the Intermodal Division and members should be under no illusion that these negotiations will be difficult and should it be required members may be called upon to indicate their dissatisfaction on the Company's claims and position.

Further to the above we have been advised that some delegates / members are being told by the Company that the RTBU has agreed that negotiations can be delayed whilst they (Intermodal) continue to deal with the impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on their business via the internal rationalisation process they have commenced. Members are advised that this is incorrect and we see both the EBA Negotiations and Internal Rationalisation process as 2 separate matters which should be dealt with as such, with neither holding up the other.

To that end we recently sent correspondence on the 1st April 2009 to the GM Intermodal Division seeking to meet "to discuss the current situation within Intermodal regarding staffing levels, effects on Depot numbers and placements and the future requirements of the Division etc". At the time of writing this newsflash we have received no acknowledgement or response from the Company regarding this matter.

Additional Newsflashes will be issued as developments occur, and that at the time of writing, no further meetings with the Company had been arranged.

Also it is important that we continue to get information about what the Company has put out and about saying (if anything) on what they are planning for any of the Business Group Agreements.

I ask that any such information be given / advised to your local delegate, State Branch and or emailed / faxed to the RTBU National Office. Copies of company newsletters, notes taken by you or individual members from Company held meetings etc should all be sent in. Even if we get the same information numerous times, that's better than not getting it at all, so you should assume we have not seen it nor do we know about it, and send it through.

Do not assume or expect that someone else has sent it to us.

I ask that you continue to support your Delegate and offer to assist them when needed as they represent you and your Union prior to, during and following the Campaign.

Newsflash!@Home.

If you would like to receive future information to your personal home email please email Bob Hayden at rbayden@rtbu-nat.asn.au with your name, your location, your classification and your email address and you will be added to the email list.

YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK..... WORTH FIGHTING FOR!!

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