

# Bulk Products Campaign News

Bulletin for RTBU Members in Bulk Products Division



No 1: March, 2009

The RTBU nationally and at a state level has commenced preparations for a number of major new agreements with Pacific National.

Current agreements across the main areas of Coal, Intermodal and Grain and Bulk are due to expire in June this year. The RTBU National Office will co-ordinate negotiations around the new Intermodal agreement, while the NSW Locomotive Division will be primarily responsible for negotiating new agreements for Coal and Grain and Bulk Freight.

It has also been agreed with the company that the common core conditions for all of the agreements will be as before negotiated nationally and then inserted into each of the business group agreements.

The union has conducted surveys of members in these areas, and convened meetings to discuss the union's logs of claim, and strategies to achieve good outcomes for members. The union preparations are mindful of the real impact of the current financial crisis on areas of Pacific National's business, and also alert to how these may be manipulated by the company during the negotiations. A well planned and well informed approach will ensure that negotiations focus on realistic benefits to members through the new agreements.

**Campaign Co-ordinator**  
**Steve Wright**  
**0418 699642**

## Bulk Products Campaign Committee

The combined Negotiating and Campaign Committee from the Grain and Bulk Products depots met in Sydney this week for two days to work on their campaign for a new Union Collective Agreement later this year. The new agreement will be a single agreement across all bulk product operations.

The campaign committee met to review the draft document presented by the company ahead of negotiations already set to take place in Parkes next week. The planning workshop combined earlier workplace feedback, issues raised from previous disputes and the returned survey results into the existing agreements and produced our log of claims document and this will be the base on which we commence negotiations with the company. Core items were reviewed and feedback on these provided to National Office, and our positions were developed on the remaining clauses. After a final review by the committee members this document will be tabled and negotiations will commence next week.

The campaign committee is conscious of some of the challenges of negotiations in this climate, and are confident that we have developed a campaign strategy that will ensure the best possible outcome for members in coal operations.

***The members of the Bulk Products Campaign Committee is as follows'***

**Alex Claassens, Mark Supple, Nick Punch, Dave Morris, Mark Hall, Steve Wright and Peter O'Connor.**

**Regular bulletins will be sent out to keep members informed of the developments in the campaign**

**Remember you can help in protecting and improving YOUR working conditions by;**

- ✚ **Helping to circulate newsletters about the progress of the campaign**
- ✚ **Attending meetings called to seek your endorsement and/or direction on the issues.**
- ✚ **Raising any concerns you may have via discussion with the local delegate then YOUR representative on the Committees.**

**Authorised by Alex Claassens, Divisional Secretary**

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