

2010 RAILCORP UNION COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

UPDATE No. 19

*Campaigning for a fair deal
We all deserve better!*

4 June 2010

Days since a pay increase was due: 65

The Great Train Robbery

The pay negotiations hit the media this week when the *Daily Telegraph* ran a story headlined "Rail strike looms after pay rise goes 'missing.'" The story highlighted the frustration of rail workers waiting for a resolution to their pay claim. It also referred to the 2008 agreement between unions and RailCorp specifying that a proportion of savings from workplace reforms would be used to fund future pay deals.

It has been calculated that the amount of money saved from reforms such as the rail maintenance PPP will total around \$70 million over the next three years. This money, however, has already been returned to the State Government. As a result, we're left battling with RailCorp over their 28 'reform' items in order to get a fair and reasonable agreement.

Rail workers have already been through their fair share of workplace reform. What's more, there are more people using rail services in NSW than ever before, so railway staff are having to work harder and more efficiently than ever before.

By swallowing up the \$70 million in savings generated by your hard work, the State Government is now asking you to pay for your own pay rise - twice. This is not fair.

Negotiations Re commence

The Combined Rail Unions negotiating team recommenced discussions with RailCorp on Thursday.

RailCorp has stated that our wages claim will be \$500 million over and above the standard 2.5% increase set in the State Government's wages policy. At no stage has RailCorp explained how it arrived at this figure – so we find it hard to believe.

RailCorp has also claimed that its proposed reform initiatives are aimed at delivering cost savings while maintaining or improving customer service. How can initiatives that cut front-line staff and reduce safety and security on the network improve customer service? Commuters are demanding improved levels of safety and customer service – not cutbacks.

Badge Day

White collar workers in targeted workplaces will be holding a badge day on Tuesday 8 June. The Badge Day is an important way for white collar workers to send a strong message to RailCorp executives: **better public transport is worth fighting for.**