



Professionals
Australia



Combined Unions ARTC NSW Enterprise Agreement Negotiations Newsletter

Protected Industrial Action Ballot is Underway – **VOTE YES TO ALL ACTIONS**

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has posted Protected Action Ballot papers to eligible members of the Combined Unions (the RTBU, the ETU, Professionals Australia (APESMA) and the ASU). **You should receive your ballot papers in the mail today or over the next few days. The Combined Unions recommend members “VOTE YES” to all actions.**

What is the protected action ballot (PAB)?

The *Fair Work Act 2009* requires that any activities that might be considered industrial action during the ARTC NSW Enterprise Agreement negotiations be approved by a PAB. A PAB is a secret ballot in which union members are asked to vote on whether or not to approve access to industrial action. Importantly, voting ‘yes’ in a PAB does not necessarily mean we will take the industrial action. Rather, **the PAB is an enabling vote** – voting ‘yes’ means you vote for the *option to access* the types of industrial action listed in the ballot. Each action that is voted up by members goes into our ‘toolbox’, and is then a protected form of industrial action we can choose to utilise in the future.

By voting ‘Yes’ you send a clear message to ARTC that you want a fair and equitable EA finalised asap.

Voting in the PAB is an important opportunity for ARTC employees in NSW to send a strong message to management: to demand they protect important conditions, provide equitable entitlements, fair pay increases, and take steps to address safety and compliance issues now.

Do not miss out on this important opportunity to have a say!

We are asking members to support the ballot and **vote yes to every type of action**. **Please vote by carefully following the instructions from the AEC and then by posting the ballot paper back to the AEC as soon as possible.** Please contact your union if you have any questions or concerns about the process or why we are doing this (details at the bottom of the page). The Combined Unions will be contacting members by email and telephone over the coming week to ensure that you have received your ballot paper, have voted, and have posted your ballot back to the AEC.

The ballot paper you receive from the AEC will ask you to vote yes or no to each of the following proposed actions:

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Indefinite or periodic actions in the form of inserting a statement authorized by the Unions, RTBU, APESMA, ASU and CEPU (ETU) into all outgoing emails, auto-reply messages and voicemail. | YES/NO |
| 2. Indefinite or periodic actions in the form of reading a statement authorized by the unions at the start of a media interview and responding to any questions raised by the interviewer in relation to the statement. | YES/NO |
| 3. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on using email. | YES/NO |
| 4. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on working outside the limits of the employee’s position description. | YES/NO |
| 5. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on overtime. | YES/NO |
| 6. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on on call and call out work. | YES/NO |
| 7. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on out of hours work. | YES/NO |
| 8. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on the opening or unlocking of any key operated lock. | YES/NO |
| 9. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on the use of Work on Track Authorities. | YES/NO |
| 10. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on the amalgamation of Network Control Boards. | YES/NO |
| 11. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on the operation of signalling equipment. | YES/NO |
| 12. An unlimited number of periodic or indefinite bans on any task which involves travel. | YES/NO |
| 13. An unlimited number of 1 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |
| 14. An unlimited number of 2 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |
| 15. An unlimited number of 4 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |
| 16. An unlimited number of 24 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |
| 17. An unlimited number of 48 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |
| 18. An unlimited number of 72 hour work stoppages. | YES/NO |

We recommend you **VOTE YES** to all eighteen actions so they are available to members. *Do not restrict our options. Vote ‘yes’ to include all actions in our toolbox!*

With strong member involvement we can make a change for the better. Talk to your work mates; participation in “Protected Action” is only open to members of the Combined Unions.

Authorised: **Alex Claassens**, NSW Secretary, Rail Tram and Bus Union, Level 4,321 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000, on behalf of the Combined Unions.

Not a member? Don’t delay - join your union and get involved now! Join online at:

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