



ARTC NSW EA

RTBU MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

8 December, 2015

On Monday 7 December, ARTC management walked away from the bargaining table refusing to negotiate any further on the Combined Rail Unions log of claims, stating that they **will** be putting their offer (rather than an agreed negotiated EA) out to a vote of employees.

The company has refused to budge on some key issues of importance to members, and is refusing to consider implementing some simple - and in many cases cost-neutral – conditions that would provide basic protection for members. The Combined Unions' log of claims included some 70 plus items, which included 28 items that were cost-neutral.

At the closure of the negotiations there were significant outstanding issues, including those below:

- **That all employees should be covered by the EA, with no salary cap;**
- **A nine (9) day fortnight to be worked by all employees;**
- **Improved consultation and transition and restructure provisions;**
- **Conditions in the EA not to be below the conditions in other ARTC EAs**

The company is only prepared to offer a **2% wage increase** in line with the Government's *Workplace Bargaining Policy*. The unions are seeking a **4% per annum** wage increase.

ARTC would not include any transmission of business provisions or assurances, and increased protections for workers in the event that ARTC is sold off/privatised.

It has been clearly demonstrated by ARTC management that they were not “negotiating” and that they would only “consider then reject” the unions' log of claims. Contrary to what the company may say, there remain several major problems with this proposed EA, and the way that the company has gone about it.

All employees will receive a copy of ARTC's proposed agreement in the coming days, and will then have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to accept it.

It is the strong view of the Combined Rail Unions that ARTC employees deserve a much better deal than what is being offered by the company.

Whether you are a union member or not – you need to act to protect your working conditions. Send a **clear** message to ARTC management that you do not accept their offer.



Authorised: Alex Claassens, RTBU NSW Branch Secretary