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Combined Unions ARTC NSW Enterprise Agreement Negotiations Newsletter

ARTC Sale Off the Agenda – for now

The Federal Government has pulled back on its planned privatisation of ARTC.

The sale, which was proposed last year, was not included in the Federal Budget released on Tuesday.

Instead, the Federal Government Budget has allocated \$594 million to ARTC to purchase land for the 1700-kilometre Melbourne-to-Brisbane inland rail corridor.

The Federal Government has said that keeping ARTC in public ownership will allow it to access cheaper financing for the Inland Rail project.

Unions have been fighting against the privatisation of ARTC. While this latest development is welcome, we're suspicious that the Federal Government may not be telling the full story.

The money from the Budget has been given to ARTC as equity in the business – which will increase the value of ARTC should it be put up for sale in future.

We're worried this could be a sneaky way to make ARTC look more attractive to potential buyers – effectively “fattening the cow” before taking it to market.

It is unlikely to be a coincidence that the Federal Government appointed Vince Graham to the ARTC Board of Directors in March 2016. Vince was most recently the CEO of Networks NSW, where he oversaw the preparation of the electricity distribution businesses for privatisation.

So while ARTC might be safe for now, we know that the fight against privatisation, and to protect our jobs and conditions, is far from over.

Meanwhile, progress on the Inland Rail project remains painfully slow. There is no funding for construction, and no timetable for when construction might actually begin.

Unions will continue pushing for real progress on Inland Rail, and fighting to keep ARTC in public hands.

Are you Informed? Involved?

It's time to get involved at ARTC to get a better outcome in your NSW EA. Join your union, talk to your delegates about getting involved, talk to your colleagues. It's time to get the message out there – the offer was voted down in December 2015 because it was not good enough. ARTC needs to improve the NSW EA offer now.

It's time to step up and get involved - with strong member involvement we can make a change for the better.

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NSW Secretary

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On behalf of the combined unions

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

www.rtbu-new.asn.au

www.etunsw.asn.au

www.professionalsaustralia.org.au

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