



ARTC EA Newsletter No.3 — April 19, 2005

Report on enterprise agreement negotiation 'lock-up' between Unions and ARTC

On 15th April 2005 the Unions and ARTC held a 'lock-up' to negotiate further the content of the new ARTC enterprise agreement. The key points arising from this meeting are outlined below:

The starting point for the discussions on the day was a document which compared RIC, SRA and ARTC enterprise agreement provisions. Further, attention was given to the content of the new RailCorp enterprise agreement which is about to be voted on by RailCorp employees.

The Unions and ARTC discussed approximately two-thirds of the provisions in these enterprise agreements with initial agreement from ARTC given to clauses relating to less 'controversial' provisions such as:

- consultative provisions,
- the inclusion of a definitions section in the new agreement,
- provisions relating to anti-discrimination and equal employment opportunity, and
- clauses relating to apprentices/trainees/graduate programs.

Aspects of the Unions' claim which ARTC indicated they did not agree with included:

- the provision of a 19 day month, enabling rostered days off to be taken by employees,
- clauses relating to supplementary labour/outsourcing,
- the amount of sick leave provided to each employee per annum,
- provisions relating to maternity/parental leave,
- classification rates (industry standard),
- pro-rata entitlement to long service leave if an employee resigns before reaching the statutory requirement of years of service for long service leave, and
- overtime rates.

Overall, good progress was made at the lock-up. The timeline which was agreed at the previous meeting is being adhered to, and two further lock-ups have been planned between the parties – the first on Thursday 12th May 2005, and another on Friday 27th May 2005.

If members of the joint Unions or other ARTC employees require more information about the negotiations, or would like to make a suggestion, please contact your Union Organiser:

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This Newsletter circulates to all ARTC employees and RIC Secondees in NSW, South Australia and Victoria.

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