

TfNSW Award Negotiations Continue Under Supervision of NSW Industrial Relations Commission

Combined NSW Transport Unions' Update No. 9

Friday, 17 February 2012

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA), Australian Services Union (ASU), Public Service Association (PSA) and the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) attended the NSW Industrial Relations Commission on 7 & 8 February for conciliation before Deputy President, Justice Walton.

Conciliation Before the NSW IRC

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission is attempting to facilitate the resolution of a number of key entitlement issues which will be contained in the new Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) Award.

Some of the key issues conciliated include:

- salary maintenance;
- 9 day fortnight (flex leave);
- span of hours;
- long term temporary employees;
- picnic day;
- all leave provisions;
- engineers classification structure;
- union / delegate rights;
- filling of positions; and
- higher duties allowances.

Conciliation has occurred because of the refusal by TfNSW to recognise existing conditions of employment in current industrial instruments should be maintained in an enforceable Award.

Throughout negotiations TfNSW have consistently sought to cherry pick the clauses they wish to have included in the new Award. By using this approach they have sought to undermine the current conditions enjoyed by employees.

As a result of the unions work, there has been substantial movement by TfNSW on a number of key issues.

Unions Continue to Make Progress

A further meeting was organised after conciliation between the respective Union Branch Secretaries and the Director General of TfNSW in an attempt to find a way to speed up resolution of the negotiations.

TfNSW accepted a number of suggestions provided by the unions to address outstanding issues. The Combined Transport Unions are now working to complete a number of actions to finalise the Award.

Protections Achieved So Far

To date the Combined Transport Unions have achieved the following assurances from TfNSW:

1. Employees who currently have a travel pass will continue to hold that right.
2. There shall be a provision to ensure no employee suffers any net financial detriment.
3. Inclusion of comprehensive consultation and dispute settlement procedure clauses.

The unions are also seeking to ensure all policies and procedures associated with the new Award can only be varied with the consent of both parties.

As members would be aware, the unions lodged an Award application which sought to protect the current conditions of employment of all employees no matter from which transport agency they were being transferred. These conditions have been fought for over many years and should not be removed by the stroke of a manager's pen.

The parties are continuing to negotiate and a further conciliation hearing is scheduled before the NSWIRC on 23 February 2012.

The Combined Transport Unions will continue to fight to protect members conditions in an environment where the Government is determined to remove existing public sector workers pay and conditions.

Should you have specific inquiries about your conditions in this process contact your union.