



## NATIONAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 12 October 2021  
**To:** All KiwiRail Members  
**From:** Wayne Butson, General Secretary  
**Subject:** KiwiRail – RMTU MECA Bargaining Status Statement #3

This is not a joint bargaining update notice. This notice is the third issued and should be read in conjunction with the earlier notices dated 26 August and 12 October 2021.

The BPA (Bargaining Process Agreement) provides for each party to be able to make single updates to stakeholders on a no surprises basis in the event that agreement cannot be reached on joint statement. To meet the no surprises this notice will be provided to KiwiRail as well as members.

To remind members the unanimously agreed (amongst the bargaining team) RMTU claim for this MECA renewal is; "a single priority claim of an 8% general Increase to all wages and allowances within the MECA and for the increase to be paid as a flat rate universal increase to all members with a 12 month term for the new MECA. The RMTU also expects KiwiRail to complete, to our satisfaction, the payscale 1, 2, 4 and 7 market study reviews agreed as part of the last MECA settlement to be completed prior to any general increase being applied this wagheround.

KiwiRail and the RMTU met in a Microsoft Teams meeting on 14 October 2021. During this meeting KiwiRail advised the RMTU team a revised verbal offer in resolution of the KR-RMTU MECA negotiations. Eighteen elected members of the short line up of the RMTU negotiating team were able to join the meeting together with myself and staff.

The KiwiRail verbal offer changed the formal written offer tabled on 6 October 2021 but remains unacceptable to the RMTU bargaining team

The RMTU delegates met on Zoom to discuss the company revised offer. The team unanimously agreed that the verbal offer remained unacceptable and it was resolved that the Unions National Office issue a postal strike ballot for voting on by members immediately. The first tranche of ballot papers was placed at the Postal Centre today at 1330hrs.

The strike ballot;

- Closes at 1700hrs on 12 November 2021
- Only ballot papers returned are counted
- We need to have a high rate of return of ballot papers to demonstrate to the employer that members resolve is strong
- Detailed explanatory information accompanies the Strike Ballot

We will keep you informed.

**The RMTU Team strongly recommend members vote in favour of Strike Action.**

**Make your voice heard – Have your say – Tick Yes - Return your ballot paper – Make it count!**

In Unity,

  
Wayne Butson

**Advocate KR 2021 Wage Round**