



NATIONAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: 22 October 2021
To: All KiwiRail Members
From: Wayne Butson, General Secretary
Subject: KiwiRail – RMTU MECA Bargaining Status Statement #4

This is not a joint bargaining update notice. This notice is the fourth issued and should be read in conjunction with the earlier bargaining status notices dated 26 August, 12 October and 15 October 2021 and the Strike Ballot information notice dated 14 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. To meet the no surprises basis 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 wage round.

KiwiRail and the RMTU short line up met in a Microsoft Teams meeting today (22/10/21). The meeting commenced with KiwiRail making an opening statement from the CEO and ER Managers which included questioning of the RMTU's good faith approach to the talks, the strike ballot and a loss of confidence from shareholders and customers. Following these opening statements, the RMTU took an adjournment and met on a Zoom meeting platform. The delegates and officials on the call all expressed disquiet and the tone and content of the opening statement. Some likened it to being summoned to the headmaster's office and threatened. The RMTU team agreed to return to the KiwiRail Teams meeting on the basis that the Union advocate would advise KR of how we felt and request that they reflect on what had happened and hopefully change their approach to a constructive one which would see us reaching a settlement to the wage round. The RMTU Team remains willing to talk further with KiwiRail on mutually agreed days and times to reach an agreed settlement. Accordingly, no further offer was received from KiwiRail today and their previous offers remain unacceptable to the RMTU bargaining team

The RMTU KiwiRail Strike Ballot continues with the key details being;

- 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