

THE ACTIVIST



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TOLL NETWORKS NEGOTIATIONS SETTLED: RATIFICATION VOTE TO BE HELD.

On 9 & 10th June the RMTU met with Toll Networks Management in Auckland. Our advocate, RMTU Auckland Regional Organiser Stu Johnstone, with Auckland delegate Brian Walker, Hamilton delegate Pat Frelan, Christchurch delegate Tony Dreaver and RMTU South Island Organiser John Kerr reached a settlement with a management team led by Christine Desbonnets and Murray Gardner.

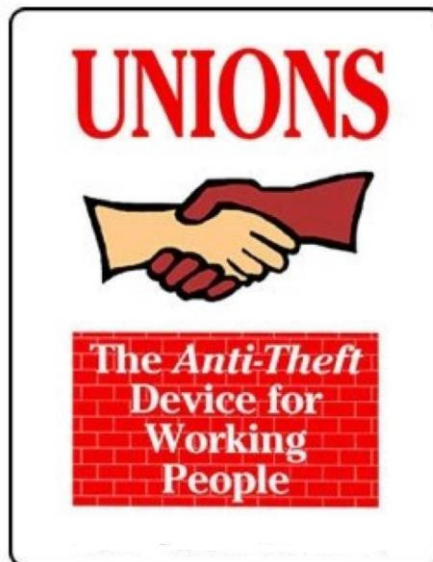
The settlement will be described in detail at ratification meetings which are currently being arranged, and members will get the opportunity to vote on it. Our team is recommending the deal on the basis that it delivers real wage growth in the term of the agreement; that there are no losses to terms and conditions; and that we believe this is the best settlement we can achieve by talking.

Toll members are encouraged to keep an eye out for notice of ratification meetings in their branches.

LPC BRANCH EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDS EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT: CALLS MASS MEETING

Our LPC Branch Executive is mindful that LPC is in a period of great change, with new land being reclaimed at the port as well as plans to expand the company's operations out at the new metro-port site in Rolleston to supplement the inland port at Woolston. With all this change happening it is the RMTU's view we need to future proof our members. The 'pie' will be getting bigger, and since its workers who make the pie, we need to make sure we have the ability to bargain for as big a slice as possible. If we don't, then in a few years' time we risk being marginalised, with the result that our bargaining strength is weakened. That means fighting to improve

and protect our wages and conditions, as well as health and safety, will be much harder. The Branch Executive is therefore calling members to back a remit for this year's bargaining to expand the coverage to take in all workers employed by LPC, including those at Woolston and Rolleston. We're confident our members will support the Executive and so we're calling a full membership meeting to be held at the Woolston Club on 30th June, time to be confirmed.



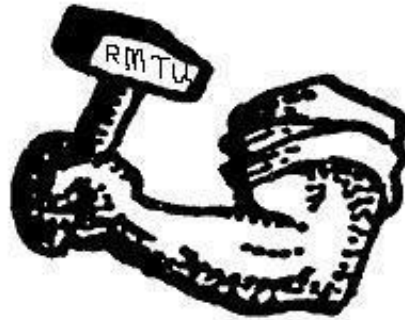
This is for the information and guidance of RMTU members only!

KR WAGEROUND – HARD BARGAINS 2014”

The parties (KR and the RMTU) met in Wellington on 27 thru 29 May in Wellington. The RMTU team spent the first 2 days sorting the draft claims received from Union branches and then gave them a priority ranking within the bargaining to come. On day 3 KiwiRail managers gave a financial and general overview to the team.

The wider negotiating team comprises all union elected members of the KiwiRail Industrial Councils (namely Networks [I&E], Interisland, Freight, Mechanical and Passenger). Council members will be completing report back meetings to all branches advising what remits are in/out and why.

The RMTU has submitted its claim document to KiwiRail and it is now available on the Union website for members. KiwiRail is costing the claims and when the parties meet again on 1 thru 3 July the employer will table their claims for this wageround.



ASBESTOS IN ADDINGTON DEPOT

Late last week KR advised the RMTU that they had received verbal confirmation that two swab tests inside the Addington depot building returned positive. The testing was completed as part of a cleanup. No confirmation has been received regarding the test results from the testing company and air testing that has been carried out previously has been clear of asbestos.

As a precaution KR have closed the depot until they can confirm a zero reading. Post swab testing of the gravel under the lean-to has returned a positive result as well, Marachi Limited contractor is making arrangements to return and remove further gravel and retest.

KR's Property team has engaged K2 to undertake a complete sequence of new tests. They have installed air testing and they are carrying out more detailed swab testing in a grid pattern throughout the depot. Clean up will commence when KR understand the extent of the contamination.

Once certified asbestos free we will instigate ongoing monitoring throughout the building. As we find out more, this will be made available to staff affected. In the meantime all Addington staff will be based out of Waltham.

RMTU CONFERENCE REMIT CALL

The RMTU is calling for members and branches to tender any remits for National Conference in October 2014. The mechanism to change union policy, rules and/or standing orders is by way of remit to Conference. Remits must be moved and seconded by members and passed through branch meetings before submission to Conference.

Remits are called and will close on 30 June 2014.

HERE WE GO AGAIN....

KiwiRail's GM Corporate and Finance has issued a memo to staff which states;

"As you would be aware, the government has again supported KiwiRail with funding support of \$198m for the next financial year. In conjunction with this, we have agreed to undertake a review of the strategic role of rail.

This review will be completed over the next six months using teams within KiwiRail as well as outside advice. We expect at the end of this to have a position that, in agreement with officials, will be used to help give multi-year certainty for this business – Project 2045 as it is now named.

I will lead the strategic project work with David Crispin and Simon Aimer and as such, some interim reporting line/duty changes will be undertaken with immediate effect until Project 2045 is completed. Stephen O'Keefe (Head of Finance) and Andrew Brown (General Counsel) will be seconded directly into the executive team and report directly to Peter Reidy. I will continue to support the other key areas of business - ICT, Procurement and Property."

Last time this was done it was the Booze Allen Hamilton report and sadly we all know

where that led. Hold onto your hats as here we go again.....

LAUNCH OF THE UNION MOVEMENT'S GET OUT AND VOTE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

LET'S GET OUT AND



GENERAL ELECTION 3 SEPTEMBER - 20 SEPTEMBER

CTU Get Out And Vote aims to mobilise the hundreds of thousands of people who enrol but don't vote – 31% of enrolled voters didn't vote in 2011.

This year you can vote at any time from September 3 through to September 20.

It's easy to sign up with the union movement's Get Out and Vote campaign!

Sign on here to be a volunteer, and talk to talk to workmates, friends and neighbours to ask them to make a pledge to be a voter at this election. We'll be in touch with the resources you need (like pledge cards and information leaflets) and let you know about events in your area and ideas for things to share on social media – so you can help us Get Out and Vote!

ARE YOU A VOTER?

Even if you aren't able to volunteer, we want you to make a pledge to be a voter at this year's election. Make a pledge to be a voter (make sure you're enrolled to vote too). We'll make sure you have all the information you need about where and when to vote.

Authorised by Helen Kelly, NZCTU, Level 7, 178 Willis Street, Wellington

NOW ALMOST 900 JOB LOSSES FROM SOLID DEBACLE

With 137 jobs set to go at Stockton mine, the total number of job losses from the Government's disastrous management of Solid Energy is close to 900, says Labour's SOEs spokesperson Clayton Cosgrove.

"The loss of 137 jobs is yet another massive blow to the people of the West Coast, alongside the more than 700 other Solid Energy jobs lost.

"With much of its workforce gone Stockton will end up operating under capacity, along with Spring Creek which has been mothballed. National has campaigned on

promoting mining in New Zealand but ironically it's shutting them down instead.

"Solid Energy's near collapse is the result of years of mismanagement by Ministers and the former Board. Tony Ryall and Bill English were warned repeatedly about the problems facing the SOE but ignored them and took no action, leaving it almost \$400 million in debt and shedding jobs by the hundreds.

"This is why the company is in the state it's in today, reliant on a bailout from the banks and Government, and now a shadow of the export award-winning company it was under Labour.

"If Ministers had taken action earlier many of these jobs could have been saved.

"Tony Ryall is responsible for every one of these job losses leading to his legacy as the most negligent and incompetent SOE Minister in history," says Clayton Cosgrove.

PRIME PORT MEMBERS FACE REDUNDANCY FOR THIRD TIME IN FOUR YEARS; NATIONAL PRESIDENT FLYS IN.

Our long suffering members at Prime Port in Timaru are undergoing their third so called 'restructure' in four years.

Sixteen jobs are on the chopping block at the port. General Secretary Wayne Butson says this simply isn't good enough.

At last year's Prime Port AGM CEO Jeremy Boyes was talking up the acquisition of half of Prime Port by Port of Tauranga as well as boasting he had the "most flexible" workforce on the New Zealand waterfront. Clearly that's not enough for the employer who now wants to become little more than a landlord, while our members face more insecurity.

Quality Marshalling and Timaru Container Terminal Ltd, both owned by Port of Tauranga, are proposing taking over running the operation, a move that can only be aimed at driving down wages and to make workers more fearful of their future job security.



This sort of corporate smoke and mirrors act, changing employers and a competitive contracting model is all about cutting wages, reducing job security and by default it compromises health and safety.

This is merely a symptom of a wider crisis in the industry. The ports sector in New Zealand is becoming like the wild west, deregulation has created a free for all where ordinary Kiwi workers trying to provide for their families face a constant battle to hang on to their wages and conditions and to try and ensure decent standards of health and safety' whilst their bosses are only interested in earning bigger bonuses.

Solving this requires comprehensive rethink at central government level to come up with a National Ports strategy, not something we expect anytime soon under the National led government.

RMTU National President Aubrey Wilkinson flew to Timaru on Thursday 12 June to meet with members. The RMTU has also commissioned lawyer Geoff Davenport to flush out the relationship between Prime Port, Quality Marshalling and Timaru Container Terminal Ltd. We are not in the business of facilitating our members being done over in this way.

FOREST CONTRACTOR'S ATTITUDE UNHELPFUL

The CTU is gobsmacked at today's attack from the Forest Industry Contractors Association (FICA) to its own Independent Forest Safety Review Report.

"FICA's public meltdown is unfortunate and disappointing. We are very concerned that this type of behaviour may mean that workers do not feel able to come forward and voice their concerns about the realities of unsafe practices within the forestry industry." CTU President Helen Kelly said.

"FICA has dominated the whole review process and agreed to every stage and clearly is not able to face the significance of the changes needed to make the industry

safe. Good contractors have a lot to gain from this review including building sustainable models in which they can operate successfully." Kelly said.

"To attack it now in the middle of the process sends a very bad signal to its members and raises the question that the Minister should never have left this important task to the industry." Kelly said.

"We have had lots of support from employers in the industry including contractors and I am sure they will also be dismayed by this attack on the panel and on the union. We hope they will make this clear to the panel." Kelly said

"We believe in the work that the independent review panel is doing and support them in their ongoing work. The forestry sector needs to be reformed, it can be made safer and this review panel is a part of the solution." Kelly said.

LABOUR MINISTER IGNORES CALL FOR CONSULTATION ON MINIMUM WAGE

"The Minister of Labour has arrogantly ignored the concerns of unions and low-income workers in amending the Minimum Wage Order to allow 'averaging' of the minimum wage," said the Service and Food Workers Union National Secretary, John Ryall, today.

The SFWU is the main union representing low-income workers in the service sector. SFWU members work in sectors such as cleaning, caregiving, security and food processing.

John Ryall said a SFWU request to be consulted on the proposed wording that the Minister was intending to change in the Minimum Wage Order had been ignored.

"The courts have rejected the concept of 'averaging' or allowing payments below the minimum wage in one period being offset against payments above the minimum wage in another period and our union supports this position," he said.

John Ryall said that under the 'averaging' regime low-income workers would need to be issued with calculators every fortnight to



work out whether they are being paid above the minimum wage or not.

"The truth is that the change to the Minimum Wage Order is being pushed through by the Minister to help his National Party dairy farmer mates who have been exploiting their farm labourers by regularly paying them below the minimum wage," he said.

LYTTELTON LOGISTICS OFFICERS AGREEMENT RATIFIED

RMTU Logistics Officers last month to ratify a new collective agreement with LPC after a short but sharp industrial campaign.

The agreement is for a two year term from 19th January 2014-19th January 2016 and delivers a 5.78% salary increase. The pay increases come in two stages: 2.85% backdated to 19th January this year and a further 2.85% from 19th January 2015. This compounds to 5.78%.

The RMTU believes this deal achieves real wage growth and was the best we could achieve in the circumstances without a more prolonged industrial campaign with all the implications that would have entailed.

One impact of this episode is that it has created a great deal of speculation about the forthcoming bargaining for the wider RMTU-MUNZ & LPC collective agreement which is up for negotiation from early July.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As you will be aware, there are significant changes proposed in the area of health and safety.

The new government agency, WorkSafe NZ, has now been established and the Health and Safety Reform Bill 2014 has had its first reading and has now been referred to the select committee. If passed, the new Act will replace the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

There is also currently feedback being sought on the discussion document—Developing regulations to support the new Health and Safety at Work Act. The discussion document outlines proposals for the first phase of regulations:

- General risk and workplace management
- Worker participation, engagement and representation
- Work involving asbestos
- Work involving hazardous substances; and
- Major hazard facilities.

Submissions are now open on the discussion document at

<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/about-us/consultation/development-of-regulations-to-support-the-new-health-and-safety-at-work-act> and close on Friday 18 July 2014.

PORT OF TAURANGA DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY.

The Port of Tauranga[POTL] decided late last year to introduce a Drug and Alcohol policy to cover all of its employees.

As the union representing the largest group of union members employed by POTL were invited to consult with POTL on the policy, which we have done in a positive manner. The RMTU's view was to ensure that the Policy was a fair one and that all employees were covered by the policy.

To date there has been a large number of changes to the original policy and POTL have been positive in responding to the issue that we and the other two unions have raised.

The anticipated start of the Policy is the 1st of July, however we will be holding a meeting of our members prior to the 1st to clarify their view on the Policy.

NORTH TUGZ UPDATE

The RMTU has initiated bargaining on behalf of members at North Tugz. We plan to meet with the company when a suitable gap in the shipping schedule has been identified. 4 new members have chosen to join our ranks this year and we look forward to reporting a positive outcome in the next edition.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS NATIONAL?

The CTU is dismayed that the National Government has been unable to bring the



number of people who are unemployed, down.

"New Zealanders need more jobs. The government has a critical role to play in job creation, but is not doing enough," says CTU economist Bill Rosenberg.

"Unemployment, unchanged from December and barely down on a year ago, is still too high at 147,000 people or 6.0 percent. Despite high GDP growth rates, New Zealand is 11th in unemployment in the OECD, and still worse than Australia even with its slowing growth. For young people aged 15-24 years, the proportion of those not in employment, education or training has risen from 11.3 percent in December to 11.8 percent in March. The unemployment rate for 20-24 year olds has also risen compared to a year ago." Rosenberg said.

"People are being forced off benefits into work. The statistics show many people and not finding it easier to find jobs. The number of people wanting work or more hours and unable to find them is increasing. The number who are jobless has risen to 254,100 from 251,400 a year ago. Part-timers wanting more hours have risen from 83,300 to 95,800 over the year," says Rosenberg.

"Wage growth remains slow, especially given the rise in productivity over the last five years which mean that the economy can well afford strong wage growth, and wage and salary earners are well overdue for catch-up increases." Rosenberg said.

The average wage rose only 1.0 percent in real terms in the last year, and has risen only 1.6 percent in real terms since 2009. The Labour Cost Index barely kept up with inflation in the last year. It's down 1.7 percent since 2009.

"Workers are overdue for much lower unemployment and decent wage rises, this Government is not doing enough" Rosenberg says.



ANDY KELLY SPEAKS OUT....

Our South Island ports rep on the union National Management Committee became so incensed after reading a story written by Fairfax Reporter Cecile Meier on the failure of wages to rise in our Rock Star economy that he wrote a rebuttal opinion piece and submitted it to the paper. He said;

It's good that the apparent failure of wages to rise as the economy starts to grow again and business profits increase is receiving increasing media attention. Cecile Meier's piece of 17 May was particularly thought provoking. As one of the workers she interviewed in her research for that article I've been thinking about it ever since. I am the President of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union's Lyttelton Port Branch, and work as a Maintenance Fitter at the port, so I am a 'real worker' as well as an elected union official.

Yes, that's right - I get my hands dirty and do shift work as well as stand up for my work-mates' rights at work.

In the view of our members it's about time the disparity between the increases awarded to CEOs and other senior managers compared to frontline workers is well and truly condemned. CEOs and their ilk are not wealth creating entrepreneurs in most industries - they are simply 'rent takers' who are being paid grotesquely high salaries at the expense of those of us who actually create the wealth.

Sadly much of the media commentary to date does not examine the structural features of the New Zealand industrial relations system that leads to stagnating wages as profits rise. Because there is little historical analysis in our media, many of us live in a sort of 'permanent presence' where we fail to understand the extent to which we are shackled by the events of the recent past.

This is particularly true of the New Zealand labour market.

In short, New Zealand went from having one of the developed world's most regulated labour markets to one of the most deregulated virtually overnight with the passing of the Employment Contracts Act in 1991. This destroyed a wage setting mechanism in this country that was unique to Australia and ourselves – that of compulsory arbitration – and which had been in place, largely unscathed, for over a hundred years.

Since then successive Kiwi governments have failed to fix the wage setting mechanism so it works for workers and the result is self-evident. Since 1991 the Aussies have been largely successful at keeping national awards that maintain minimum terms and conditions across industries and occupations and the gap between our wages and theirs has ballooned.

Go a little further abroad and a similar picture emerges. In France the legal and political culture is such that with broadly similar union membership density as here, the 'reach' of collective bargaining ensures that a much larger proportion of wage earners benefit from better pay and conditions. This is also true of Scandinavia and much of the rest of Europe.

Now our so called 'Rock Star Economy' is growing again, our lack of a wage fixing mechanism that ensures wage earners get a higher share of the wealth they create means inequality, already scandalously high in this country, is set to increase further.

Every time this happens we're treated to risible articles on 'How to Get a Pay Rise', usually written by a so called 'human resources' professional or a recruitment agent. These pieces tell us that if we demonstrate to our boss how much 'value' we add in our work then that's our best hope of convincing them to increase our pay. Of course it doesn't work like that out in the world workers live in. In the experience of our members and many like them, employers in New Zealand don't pay more unless they absolutely have to and no amount of moral or intellectual argument makes up for a lack of industrial might.

We don't find that the threat of increased employee turnover will lead to employers paying their staff wage increases. Some of us have long memories – we haven't forgotten the last so called boom in the early years of this century before the Global Financial Crisis. What happened during the middle of the last decade was that many employers refused pay increases to existing staff, some of them voted with their feet, and the employers had to pay more to attract replacement workers while institutional knowledge was lost in many firms as staff turnover rose alarmingly.

Average wages still remained low by international standards however. In short, deregulated labour markets only work for the boss.

So until we get a government that is committed to overhauling the industrial relations system in our country, I'm afraid that most non-unionised workers are condemned to increasingly low paid and precarious employment and those of us who try to bargain collectively have to face up to increasingly bitter fights to maintain our terms and conditions and the maintenance of a decent standard of living.

vote 
FAIRNESS 2014

WESTFIELD DERAILMENT

A detailed report has been completed and shared with the RMTU regarding the circumstances that lead to a locomotive derailling and tipping on its side on March 2nd 2014. Fortunately both our members that were on this empty service were not seriously injured. The report identifies a number of opportunities for lessons to be learnt by all involved with some changes to processes that will hopefully minimise the likelihood of this being repeated.

MORE TIME FOR BABY?

Budget night saw announcements of changes to parental leave: a staged increase from 14 to 18 weeks of paid parental leave, and changes increasing the availability and flexibility of parental leave.



The current system provides for up to 14 weeks' taxpayer-funded paid parental leave. To qualify, a woman having or adopting a baby (or her eligible spouse or partner) must have worked regularly for the same employer, or have been self-employed, for an average of 10 hours a week for at least the previous six months. There is also an entitlement to take up to 52 weeks' extended (unpaid) parental leave (including any 14 weeks of paid leave), with a 12 month in the employment of the same employer requirement, which can also be transferred to a spouse or partner.

The current system also allows an employment agreement to provide additional benefits.

So, what is changing? The Government has announced:

- More paid parental leave: this is to be extended from 14 weeks to 18 weeks, in two steps: to 16 weeks from 1 April 2015, and to 18 weeks from 1 April 2016.
- Eligibility for paid parental leave is to cover permanent carers from 1 April 2016, including: primary carers providing permanent foster care, people who have permanent guardianship, and grandparents caring for grandchildren.
- Paid parental leave will be available to "less-regular workers". From 1 April 2016, employees will be entitled to parental leave payments (but won't automatically have their job held open for them) if they worked an average of at least 10 hours a week with any employer over any 26 of the previous 52 weeks.
- Parental leave will also become "more flexible". Current rules prevent a person on parental leave from coming back to work for activities like training or planning days. It is therefore intended that parental leave become more flexible for employers and employees by, for e.g., allowing people to work an occasional day or attend a course during paid or unpaid parental leave.



Except for the staged extension to 18 weeks, legislation for these changes is yet to be passed. The Minister has also noted that public consultation is to occur before eligibility and flexibility changes are finalised.

C3 NEGOTIATIONS IN NAPIER.

These negotiations are progressing reasonably well and we are awaiting a response from C3 when we meet again on the 18th and 19th of June.

90 DAY LAW SEES MORE WORKERS SHOWN DOOR

A Government report on employment law changes, including the 90-day trial period and union access rights, not only raises serious concerns but confirms some policies are positively bad for working people, Labour's spokesperson on Labour Issues Andrew Little says.

"The MBIE survey shows 27 per cent of employers – more than a quarter – dismissed at least one employee during or at the end of the trial period, up from 19 per cent a year ago, with many employers using the law as a standard employment term rather than to genuinely try out a new staff member.

"No employee interviewed said their performance was monitored or reviewed while they were on their trial period, so it is clear that many employers use this law regardless.

"It was always predicted that the law would encourage poor recruitment practices. This report confirms it.

"Surprisingly the Ministry official releasing the report suggested the trial periods resulted in more employment opportunities, yet the report itself stated there was no evidence the law had an impact on net employment.

"The reality is we had, and still have, a perfectly good law that allows probationary periods but which require an employer to give feedback and notify the worker if they are not meeting the required standard.

"We don't need the 90-day law and under Labour it will go.

"It was predictable that employers would say the reduction in union access rights made no difference to them. However, seven unions said it made it harder to contact members and communicate during bargaining, which means good faith rights were almost certainly affected.

"New Zealand needs a workplace law fit for the 21st Century; one that promotes high quality relationships, encourages productivity and ensures workers are fairly rewarded. This is what Labour's workplace law will seek to achieve."

LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED TRIPLES UNDER NATIONAL

New figures released today show the number of people who have been unemployed for more than a year has more than tripled since the National-led Government came to office, Labour Leader David Cunliffe says.

"The latest Household Labour Force Survey shows those unemployed for more than a year has risen from 4,800 in December 2008 to 18,000 in the latest quarter.

"Unemployment remains at 6 per cent. Where is the fairness in an economy that is failing so many New Zealanders?

"The total number of unemployed in Christchurch is unchanged at 12,200. This follows John Key's announcement yesterday that the Government would pay for 3000 beneficiaries to move to Christchurch.

"These figures show thousands of Cantabrians desperately need work. Cantabrians must be given jobs before beneficiaries are shipped in from around the country.

"Wage growth is slowing, showing hard-working Kiwis are not getting ahead.

"Wages are barely keeping pace with inflation, making it hard for families to keep up with the rising costs of living.

"It is clear the benefits of the recovery are going to the top few percent, not the 100 per cent of Kiwis that would get their share under a Labour government.

"Under a government that I lead, every Kiwi will get their fair share," David Cunliffe says.

MINISTRY REPORT: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES NOT WORKING

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has released its report into the changes to the Holidays Act and the Employment Relations Act the National Government made in 2011.

"This report clearly shows that this set of changes by the National Government to employment law are failing New Zealanders. This report shows that they have failed to increase employment and failed to help disadvantaged workers." CTU President Helen Kelly said.

"The infamous 90 day trial period is a flop. There is no evidence that 90 day trial periods have led to the creation of a single job. In fact it shows that tens of thousands of workers are

being dismissed under 90 day trials each year. There's not a shred of evidence that trial periods have created any additional employment - which was the primary justification the government provided for wanting to implement this law change. It is clear that employers like trial periods (one surveyed called it a safety blanket) but also that they are a cause of huge distress to workers who have been unfairly dismissed with no recourse to justice. There is no evidence that it has helped disadvantaged workers find jobs. Instead they are more vulnerable to being laid off. This policy is a huge and ongoing cause of human misery with no real gains for the economy as a whole. It should be scrapped." Kelly said.

"Cashing up of annual leave is being used primarily by workers on low incomes to supplement their inadequate take home pay in lieu of a pay increase (within the context that 46% didn't get a pay rise last year).

<http://www.political-kiwi.com>



Lets Vote The Bastards Out On September 20th, 2014!

The purpose of annual leave is to provide workers with an opportunity to spend time with their families, and for rest and recreation. The opportunity to have a break has been proven to have a positive impact on productivity." Kelly said.

"The rights of workers is clearly an election issue. Workers are entitled to employment law which supports and ensures fairness at work." Kelly said.

SELLER BEWARE: NAT'S RENEGE ON DUNNE DEAL

The National Government has proven once again it can't be trusted on security and intelligence matters having reneged on its deal with Peter Dunne to review aspects of the controversial spy law, Labour's Associate Security and Intelligence spokesperson Grant Robertson says.

"The Government Communications Security Bureau law – which had strong public opposition – only passed because the United Future leader struck a deal with National, ironically after he had his own private data misused.

"Peter Dunne said at the time he was a 'willing seller' and the Government was a 'willing buyer'.

"This has been a terrible trade.

"There was supposed to be changes around treatment of metadata. But this is on hold pending a Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet review of security agencies.

"New Zealanders who rallied against the law will be rightly concerned that no review has taken place.

"Labour has been calling for a review of our spy agencies for almost two years. That review should have been completed by now.

"John Key's actions have directly harmed New Zealanders' confidence in our security and intelligence agencies. He manipulated the process to appoint his friend as head of the GCSB, oversaw illegal spying by the

GCSB and has failed to be up front about the Kim Dotcom case.

"A Labour government will launch an independent review of New Zealand's spy agencies so Kiwis can once again trust those who are tasked with protecting us and our country," Grant Robertson says.

LET'S BE SAFE OUT THERE & REMEMBER.....

- Maintain situational awareness at all times;
- Ensure all are aware of the work to be performed;
- Make safety your first priority;
- Make sure you will go home safe and sound at the end of your shift;
- Make sure your workmate will go

home safe and sound at the end of their shift;

- Do not allow yourself to be distracted.
- Do not make assumptions

We're Stronger Together!

