



Rail and Maritime Transport Union Inc

www.rmtunion.org.nz

3rd August 2012

Kiwirail Infrastructure And Engineering Cost Reduction Program Update

Subsequent to the June meetings where the general outline of the cost reduction plan was presented to I&E staff, the RMTU has met with the management twice to discuss how this program will be implemented.

You will be aware that the company intends to hold further staff meetings commencing Monday 6th, to identify the numbers and locations of those jobs which are to go.

It is clear that the regional managers have been tasked with ensuring that the network can be maintained with the reduced staffing, and that the plan will work. When tested on this, neither they nor Mr Van Barnevelt would give an assurance that this could be achieved.

Of further concern is kiwiRails unwillingness or inability to identify IEA positions to be made redundant. This flies in the face of the assurances that this would be an open and transparent process.

The RMTU has been advised by members of their views regarding the staff reduction proposal. These views fall into the following general categories:

- With the numbers proposed to be shed, the network cannot be maintained in a fit for purpose state.
- The assurances given By Mr Van Barnevelt, that this exercise will not result in the contracting out of the work that would have been performed by the staff being made redundant, have not been accepted.

KiwiRail has given assurances on a number of issues:

RMTU delegates and activists will not be targeted through the selection process. Members should note that the selection criteria is the companies, and has not been agreed by the RMTU.

Temporary and casual workers, who hold positions that will remain after the redundancies, will go and those positions will be filled by permanent staff.

The RMTU was invited by the company to participate in this round of meetings, but have declined. It is KiwiRail that has decided on this course of action. They are making their staff redundant, not the RMTU, The RMTU will convene meetings of members as required subsequent to the KiwiRail scheduled meetings, and be available to represent members who believe their contractual rights have been breached.

Scott Wilson
RMTU Industrial Organiser