



SIGNAL SEVEN

September 18 2019

So, how did it go?

Last week we had the first of 3 days of intensive enterprise bargaining negotiations with the assistance of a mediator. This followed a resolution of a well-attended members' meeting in August.

The negotiations are on a "without prejudice" basis, and since we respect the sensitivity of the positions put forward by the parties we will not be providing a detailed description of "who said what". We will however make a couple of general observations.

First, it is positive that we have a further 2 days of mediation planned, and we will engage in those days in good faith.

Second, the negotiators (Steve Geerdink, Dave Bridgford, Greg McConville) are treating the process with "cautious optimism". We have not yet seen or heard anything that suggests that our main claims (crewing, skills maintenance and health and wellbeing) will easily settle. While this progresses, we are continuing work on a number of other items where we have significant claims and have tabled detailed clauses: for example uniforms and PPC, firestation infrastructure and amenities, allowances, consultation and dispute resolution.

We are now 810 days without an enterprise agreement, we have not seen anything that suggests an increasing sense of urgency as the days pass by. The next 2 days of negotiations will be telling.

Briefing from Dr David Hayward

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the briefing which was scheduled to take place tomorrow has been cancelled. We will reschedule and advise members accordingly.

September 20 Climate strike

On September 20, three days before the UN Emergency Climate Summit, school students are inviting everyone to join them for what they hope is their biggest ever global #ClimateStrike.

The UFU is a supporter of this event, both locally and nationally. Numerous studies have pointed to the increasing challenges posed to firefighting by climate change. Unions will assemble at corner of Akuna St and City Walk from 11:50am, to head to Glebe Park at midday. UFU Secretary Greg McConville will speak at approx. 12.40pm. Please notify Greg if you can attend.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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