

## Utilities Management EA Update 24-03-2022

### **Mass Strike Action delivers a change in wage position**

This morning the SBU met with Utilities Management to continue negotiations. As part of the negotiation meeting, the company have changed their wage position from 2.5% to 3% per year, for a 4 year term (the SBU's claim is a 3 year term). This is a direct result of the Industrial Action that has been happening across the business. Today saw a huge push by 13 groups/depots across the state, who all took Action. This was led by the depots in the South of the state who wanted to send a strong message in relation to the big 4 issues, including Separate EA's, Poor Wage Offer, Changing of the Issue Resolution Clause and the Forced Availability Clause that could see workers called in at **ANY** time.

UMPL are still refusing to include full back-pay. They have included the pay rise back dated to September 2021, instead of July 2021, when the workers were due a pay rise.

UMPL have also included a \$1000 payment for each employee upon a successful acceptance of a proposed EA. We see this as a vote buying exercise and we warn workers to look at the entire package.

3% per year and \$1000 is still well below the current CPI, which leaves workers with a real world pay cut. We have asked UMPL to put in a CPI safety net on multiple occasions, they have refused each time we have asked.

UMPL are still pursuing their Forced Availability clause and they have refused to make any positive changes in relation to Secondments, Supplementary Labour or Defined Term Contracts, as per our claims.

There are still major claims that are not agreed, including but not limited to:

- Wage Offer (current offer is below CPI)
- Issue Resolution Procedure
- Forced Labour Clause
- Separate Enterprise Agreements

The pressure from Strike Action is having an effect and we really need to continue to ramp that pressure up to achieve a fair and reasonable outcome to the EA negotiations. Congratulations to everyone that has taken Action – we encourage every worker to join in. This is a worthy cause, your future depends on it!

### **PIA Notices for the month of April have been Served on UMPL**

Protected Industrial Action Notices have been served on UMPL for the whole month of April.

Workers can continue to take Strike Action as they see fit.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 at 10AM.

### **SAME WORK, LESS PAY, WE SAY, NO WAY**

For more information regarding the SAPN/Enerven enterprise agreement negotiations, contact your relevant union workplace delegate or your Union Organiser:

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**PLEASE SHARE THIS UPDATE WITH YOUR WORKMATES**