

## Utilities Management EA Update 27-05-2022

### UMPL Continues Pursuit of Separate Enerven Agreement

The SBU met with the UMPL bargaining team on 26/05/2022 in an attempt to progress bargaining for a single Utilities Management Pty Ltd (UMPL) Enterprise Agreement (EA). The UMPL Bargaining Team continued their attempt to bargain a separate Enerven EA.

The SBU has rejected this claim twice, therefore we made no claims and gave no input on the claim.

Once again we see UMPL “testing legal principles”. Our view is that it is extremely unfair that they continue to run “legal test cases” at the cost of their workers pay rises and conditions.

The UMPL Bargaining Team are now contesting the validity of a Scope Order that has been handed down by the Fair Work Commission. Not by arguing it with us, or the FWC, but by ignoring the FWC Scope Order.

We have major concerns over the conduct of the UMPL Bargaining Team in this situation. This shows no respect for their workers, who are bearing the cost of delayed pay rises, just so UMPL can try to avoid the laws that everyone else follows. This also shows that UMPL has no respect for their relationship with their workers, which has taken an absolute beating over the past 2 years of negotiations. The longer this goes on, the longer it will take for the workforce to return to the productive industry leading workforce they were before this all started.

So once again we return to the Barristers for advice on how to force UMPL to comply with the law. We will seek to get the FWC to force UMPL back to bargain a single Enterprise Agreement, as per the FWC Scope Order. Any pressure the workers can bring to bear on this issue is appreciated, Protected Industrial Action is a good way.

### **Stood Down Workers are Standing Up**

The company have gone to extraordinary lengths to deter workers from taking Protected Action. In a new low, last month UMPL stood apprentices down in an effort to dissuade depots from taking Action. It never worked, the CEPU has been in the South Australian Employment Tribunal taking UMPL to task over the Action. The Apprentices have been paid and they have the commitment that the company won't stand them down again. Apprentices are under a training contract and the stand downs are a breach of these contracts, we will continue to represent these workers to ensure that amends are made. The CEPU are still pursuing UMPL in the FWC over the stand downs of TSW's and NOC workers.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, and it needs to be a lot more productive.

**2 years is 2 long!**

### **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**