



# POWER WORKERS

## South Australia

The Official Newsletter of the Power Industry Sub Committee [PISC].  
Work and Welfare Related Issues for all Power Workers in South Australia  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2013

CEPU Electrical Division

Bob Geraghty House

312 South Road,  
Richmond, SA. 5033

Ph: 08 8234 2130  
Fx: 08 8352 1711

<http://www.cepusa.com.au>



**BOB DONNELLY**  
Branch Secretary

M: 0418 814 705  
bobd@cepusa.com.au



**JOHN ADLEY**  
Organiser

M: 0447 803 299  
johna@cepusa.com.au

### SA Power Networks News

#### **SAPN Enterprise Agreement Negotiations**

The Single bargaining unit of Unions (SBU) met with SAPN representatives on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. SAPN presented an offer to settle the enterprise agreement at this meeting and communicated this offer to employees directly after the meeting.

The SBU has consulted with members regarding this offer and members have overwhelmingly reported that SAPN's offer is not acceptable as it does not address our member's claims as put forward in the SBU log of claims.

The SBU again met with SAPN on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. The SBU reported our member's rejection of SAPN's offer. SAPN stated their offer is a good, fair and reasonable outcome and they didn't have the authority to alter the offer.

The next negotiation meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, the SBU will keep you informed of progress.

#### **Covert Surveillance of employees**

Last Thursday a field employee's employment was terminated based on evidence gathered under covert surveillance. The employee was filmed at work without his knowledge or consent for three days.

This surveillance was part of an investigation by SAPN instigated allegedly in reaction to a report made by an un-named 'whistle-blower'.

The decision taken by SAPN to secretly film an employee is of great concern to the CEPU as it was, in our opinion, an unnecessary invasion of privacy and not appropriate in dealing with the companies concerns.

We are very concerned SAPNs actions did not appropriately address their serious safety breaches that were brought to their attention. SAPN suspected the employee was carrying out work in breach of non-negotiable safety directives exposing him to a potentially fatal hazard. If this was the case, the CEPU believes this should have resulted in the employee being directed to cease work immediately pending an investigation. Instead, it seems, SAPN arranged to have the employee put under surveillance while continuing to work in a hazardous manner.

We are currently in the process of addressing our concerns in accordance with the enterprise agreement. An application has been made for the Fair Work Commission to deal with a dispute.

#### **Emails**

CEPU members should be aware that emails sent through the SAPN email system remain the property of SAPN and are kept. SAPN has terminated employees based on the content of emails, and in some cases those emails have been many years old.





# POWER WORKERS

## South Australia

The Official Newsletter of the Power Industry Sub Committee [PISC].  
Work and Welfare Related Issues for all Power Workers in South Australia  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2013



[www.etunational.asn.au](http://www.etunational.asn.au)



24 hour members  
hotline  
1800 223 790



[www.membersequitybank.com.au](http://www.membersequitybank.com.au)

### Tenix

CEPU members at Tenix are currently participating in a ballot for the right to take protected industrial action. This is as part of their campaign to improve their terms and conditions of employment under a new enterprise agreement.

### AGL Torrens Island Power Station

AGL has made a revised offer to employees which the SBU is consulting with members about. The wage increases in the offer are 3% on approval, then 4.25%, 4% and 4% over a four year agreement.

The company has said they will not meet with the SBU again; they will instead put their offer to employees by way of a secret ballot.

AGL have also told employees they are operating in a difficult environment and that businesses in SA are accepting wage freezes or making workers redundant. These statements are made in despite of the fact AGL has reported their underlying profit was up 24.1% to \$598.3 Million.

### Repower

Repower employees will vote on a proposed new Enterprise Agreement on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

### Electranet

Electranet has informed us that their capital expenditure budget has been cut by 25% and they are intending to reduce their SA workforce by 45 positions. No CEPU members are expected to be directly affected by this restructure.

### Win for apprentice wages

Our Stand Up for Apprentices campaign resulted in the Fair Work Commission handing down a decision on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August that will deliver substantial pay increases to apprentices employed in building, electrical contracting, manufacturing and plumbing trades, as well creating higher pay rates for adult apprentices for the first time.

The pay rises will be transitioned over two years, with the wage of:

- a 1st year apprentice electrician who has completed year 12 jumping from \$289 to \$398 a week;
- a 2nd year apprentice electrician who has completed year 12 climbing from \$376 to \$470 a week;
- a 1st year adult apprentice electrician, aged over 21 when commencing their trade, doubling from \$289 to \$579 a week;
- a 2nd year adult apprentice electrician, aged over 21 when commencing their trade, leaping from \$376 to \$622 a week; and
- 3rd and 4th year adult apprentice electricians aged over 21 when commencing their trade, moving to the higher of the minimum wage or the junior apprentice rates.





# POWER WORKERS

## South Australia

The Official Newsletter of the Power Industry Sub Committee [PISC].  
Work and Welfare Related Issues for all Power Workers in South Australia  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2013



[www.unionshopper.com.au](http://www.unionshopper.com.au)

 **rthealth**  
FUND  
[www.rthealthfund.com.au/etu.html](http://www.rthealthfund.com.au/etu.html)

### Power Industry Sub-committee

The Power Industry Sub Committee meets at 4:30 on the first Tuesday of every month in our offices to discuss industrial, safety and welfare issues concerning members working in the power industry. All CEPU power industry members are welcome to attend. The remaining meeting dates for 2013 are the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### Delegate Training

The CEPU SA branch intends to conduct a Union Delegate level 2 training course on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. If you are interested in attending, please give us a call for further information.

### cepusa.com.au

The CEPU SA website has had a long overdue upgrade. Please take the time to have a look at it, we hope you'll find the new website informative and useful. If you have any suggestions on what you want to see on our site, please let us know.

### CEPU Delegates and Contacts

Please ensure this newsletter is displayed on the Union notice board at your depot or workplace. If you don't have a dedicated notice board space, let us know.

**STAND UP FOR**  
Our Apprentices | Our Trades | Our Future  
[standup4apprentices.com](http://standup4apprentices.com)

