



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

Thursday 11th of December 2014

CEPU Electrical Energy
and Services Division

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SA Power Networks

Gordon Penhall's retirement

The Power Industry Sub Committee celebrated Gordon Penhall's retirement from SAPN at our last meeting on the 2nd of December and presented him with a gift. Gordon joined the ETU on the 9th of July 1968. He has done a fantastic job over many years representing his fellow Union members and has been involved in negotiating every Enterprise Agreement with ETSA / SAPN. Gordon was awarded life membership of the CEPU in August 2012, the highest honour our Union can bestow on a member.



Thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts Gordon, enjoy your retirement.

CBD SAPN Shift Proposal

Conciliation and negotiation have failed to settle the dispute with SAPN over the proposed implementation of a night shift roster for CBD operations. Our members remain firmly and unanimously opposed to the imposition of a night shift which can have adverse effects on health, wellbeing, family life, relationships, social life, and which will significantly reduce our member's annual income. The dispute will go to a hearing before the Fair Work Commission on the 22nd and 23rd of December.

Defibrillator deployment

The CEPU has purchased an Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for our office to enhance the safety of our officers, staff, members and visitors. We are waiting to hear back from SAPN on details of the planned review into workplace risks and safety benefits of AED deployment at SAPN. Many members would be aware that an experienced Lend Lease linesman received an electric shock on the 20th of November whilst working in Nairne. I am told the victim was 'hooked up' for up to a minute to live low voltage and that he was revived at the scene by a work mate who administered CPR which saved his life. Whilst being transferred by helicopter from the scene to the Royal Adelaide hospital the victim was apparently revived three more times by a defibrillator device.

2015 Availability Roster

CEPU members from Country North operations have raised concerns with the CEPU about SAPNs newly announced requirement to have extra personnel on the availability roster for long weekends in 2015. In country depots with few personnel this





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extra requirement would mean employees who are already doing a large amount of availability would be on duty even more frequently than they are now.

AGL Torrens Island Power Station

AGL announced it will mothball more than one-third of the capacity of its 1,280MW Torrens Island Power Station sometime in 2017, just 10 years after it bought the ageing natural gas plant for \$417 million. AGL said that it would shut down four out of eight of power station's generating units – a group of the plant's "older units" (built nearly 50 years ago) known collectively as 'A station', with an aggregate capacity of approximately 480MW. This decision is due to the increased price of gas, reduced electricity demand and the age and efficiency of the units.

There will likely be an impact on production and maintenance employee numbers on Torrens Island. The CEPU and other Unions will be in discussions with AGL early in the New Year about potential redundancies.

Energy Australia

We are continuing negotiations with Energy Australia for an agreement that will cover employees at the Hallett power station who are currently on individual contracts.

Tenix

We have final received the decision of the SA Industrial relations Court regarding a classification dispute / underpayment claim on behalf of a member formerly employed by Tenix Australia that was the subject of a hearing on the 8th and 9th of September. We won the case on all counts and our member will receive a substantial payment.

Power Industry Contractors

Enterprise agreement negotiation efforts are still underway with power industry contractors, largely coordinated by Paul Scudds. Below is an update:

Lend Lease – In the absence of an enterprise agreement, Lend Lease have applied a 4% wage increase to employees. A CEPU log of claims has been put to the company for a new agreement and negotiations are underway. The CEPU is concerned that Lend Lease are seeking a Building Code Compliant agreement, a code which has not even been legislated - more about this below.

Electel Resources – Electel want to separate their agreement into two – one for labour hire employees and one for permanent line crew employees. Negotiations are continuing.

Helistar – Having won a majority support determination ballot we have commenced bargaining with Helistar.





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Consolidated Power Projects – CPP have issued the required representation rights notices to employees. We are scheduled to meet with members at CPP early in the New Year.

Active Tree Services – The CEPU has applied to appeal the decision of The Fair Work Commission that the CEPU cannot represent ATS employees because Active Tree Services is not an employer in the power industry. An appeal hearing is listed for the 10th of March 2015.

JBM solutions – The CEPU has met with JBM management to discuss renegotiation. We are waiting for JBM to issue notice of representational rights to employees to initiate bargaining.

Member meetings

CEPU meetings have been held recently at:

SAPN CBD operations – 17th November

SAPN Nurioopta Depot – 19th November

Energy Australia Hallett Power Station – 19th November

SAPN Clare Depot – 19th November

If you want to see your CEPU representative at your workplace, please give us a call.

Tony Abbott's Building Code

As reported earlier in this edition, Lend Lease has indicated they are seeking a Building Code compliant Agreement. The Building Code is Tony Abbott's way of introducing industrial relations reforms without reintroducing Work Choices. At this stage the code is only proposed and needs to pass through the parliament to be implemented.

The Coalition's proposed new Building Code strikes at the heart of the Australian way of life, undermining the fair go and basic rights. The Code will have a devastating impact on working hours, job security, incomes and living standards, workplace safety, opportunities for apprentices and older workers if it comes into force.

The Code represents the most extreme intervention into the conduct of private business ever seen in Australia and threatens crippling penalties on lawfully operating companies. Visit the following websites for more information on the proposed changes, and what you can do to help stop Tony Abbotts attack on working Australians.

http://www.australianunions.org.au/stop_abbotts_laws

<https://www.etuvic.com.au/content/abbotts-building-code>

Mates in Construction

CEPU SA officials have recently undertaken Mates In Construction training. Mates In Construction (MIC) is an organisation dedicated to suicide awareness and prevention. They do excellent work in the construction industry, an industry with a disproportionately high suicide rates. Workers in the construction industry are much





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more likely to die from suicide than from either industrial accidents or traffic accidents. The CEPU highly recommends Mic training program and would be keen to see this type of program introduced in other industry sectors.

Check out MIC at - <http://www.matesinconstruction.org.au/SA>

Power Industry Sub-committee

The Power Industry Sub Committee meets at 4:30 on the first Tuesday of every month in our offices at Bob Geraghty House, 312 South Rd, Richmond to discuss industrial, safety and welfare issues concerning members working in the power industry.

All CEPU power industry members are welcome to attend

Dates for 2015 are: 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

CEPU Delegates and Contacts

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

Merry Christmas

Wishing all members a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period. Our office will be closed from lunchtime on the 24th of December until the 5th of January. If you need to contact the CEPU urgently over the Christmas period, call John or Paul on their mobile numbers. See you in the New Year.

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