

SAPN/Enerven ignores the voice of workers

This morning your bargaining representatives met with SA Power Networks/Enerven to receive their reviewed position in the wake of their sub-standard proposed EA being strongly voted down by workers.

The vote was called on the 15th of October and we have been waiting since then for any shift at all from SA Power Networks/Enerven on their position.

Today (17/11/20) in a meeting that only lasted around 17 minutes, management told us that their position (which was put to us way back on the 26th of June) remains unchanged.

This is despite the workers feedback, the workers very reasonable counteroffer and the workers convincingly voting down company's proposed EA. SA Power Networks/Enerven told us this morning that 'just because our offer was voted down, it doesn't mean it's a bad offer'.

In our view this is disrespectful to the views of the workforce as demonstrated by the NO vote. To justify their position management repeated their lines about COVID, the CPI rate, the Regulatory Reset and added the increasing unemployment rate in totally unrelated industries. The positivity that we see in the CEO Updates and reports to shareholders was nowhere to be seen at the bargaining table, it was all doom and gloom again.

Since our first meeting on the 26th of June, SA Power Networks/Enerven have not changed their position at all and have resisted any sort of genuine negotiation. As they asserted in the last EA meeting, they are 'doing what is required'. In our view, this means they are doing the bare minimum to comply with the rules (imagine if our members had that mentality, and what that would mean for SAPN/Enerven's profitability).

Enterprise Agreements are in place to ensure industrial stability for the company and ensure wages and conditions for the workers. The current Enterprise Agreement ends on 31st of December 2020. Past this nominal expiry date, the current Agreement stays in place until it is replaced. To replace the Agreement SA Power Networks/Enerven needs a majority of workers to vote to accept of a replacement.

Whilst an EA is in place, industrial action is not permitted. Once an EA has passed its nominal expiry date, industrial action is an option for workers, if they follow a set process. This process can be instigated 30 days before the expiry of the EA, for SAPN/Enerven workers, this is on the 1st of December 2020.

We are disappointed that SAPN/Enerven continue to ignore the voice of the workers. The workers (our fellow union members) deliver efficiency and productivity that is nation leading in the distribution industry. SAPN/Enerven workers efforts create a highly profitable business whilst delivering for South Australian customers and communities day in day out.

The workers are simply asking for a fair and reasonable outcome to negotiations in return for their industry leading contributions. A fair negotiation process is the least that SAPN/Enerven should be doing for their dedicated workforce.

For more information regarding the SAPN/Enerven enterprise agreement negotiations, contact your relevant Union Workplace Delegate or call your Union Organiser:

Ben Jewell	0422 339 699	BenjaminJ@cepusa.com.au
Scott McFarlane	0426 291 572	smcfarlane@asu-sant.asn.au
Sarah Andrews	0411 124 351	sandrews@professionalsaustralia.org.au
Stuart Gordon	0410 809 160	stuart.gordon@amwu.org.au

PLEASE SHARE THIS UPDATE WITH YOUR COLLEGUES