

## Utilities Management EA Update 07-04-2022

### Return to Single EA Negotiations Fails Before it Starts

The SBU met with the UMPL bargaining team today to continue bargaining for a single Utilities Management Pty Ltd (UMPL) Enterprise Agreement. Only SA Power Networks Bargaining Representatives attended this morning's meeting, no Bargaining Reps from Enerven were present. This raised serious concerns for the SBU over compliance with the Good Faith Bargaining obligations set by the *Fair Work Act*.

Over a week ago, the SBU asked UMPL by email to provide UMPL's view by 5:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April as to who was going to be at today's meeting and which employees the bargaining would be for. The recent decision of the full bench of the Fair Work Commission (FWC) ruled out the separate Enerven EA being pursued by UMPL so it was very important that the SBU got UMPL's view so that we could prepare for a recommencement of bargaining. UMPL completely ignored this request.

We raised this at the start of the EA meeting, the company said they had contacted the Enerven Bargaining Reps yesterday. However, Enerven Reps told the SBU that they didn't receive notification or an invitation to attend today's meeting. Hearing this, the SBU were concerned that Enerven employees had not been given appropriate notice or an opportunity to properly participate in bargaining.

The company gave notice that despite the decision of the Full Bench of the FWC, they are raising a claim for 2 EA's under the single Notice of Employee Representational Rights (NERR).

We considered this position during a short break and then rejected the claim as we are not persuaded that the claim for 2 separate agreements is in the best interests, nor meets the imperatives of our members.

Following that short discussion, we raised concerns that without the Enerven Bargaining Reps present, if we continued the meeting, we would be breaching the Good Faith Bargaining Requirements. To avoid this, we had no choice but to close the meeting. We will organise further meetings to continue the negotiations as soon as the company has rectified the issue in relation to the participation of Enerven Bargaining Representatives.

### Workers Continue Widespread Strike Action

Workers across the state have participated in strike action including the Great Southern Strike which included all Southern depots, The Great Northern Strike which included all Northern Depots and the Metro Strike which included all Metro Depots. Today the NOC added their name to the long list of workers who are sending a strong message to the company.

If you haven't taken strike action yet, now is the time. **2 years is too 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**