

Update for AFFCO Talley members

Mediation

MWU attended two days of court recommended mediation to discuss the implementation of the Court decision that members go back on the expired collective agreement. **The union team included Helen Kelly, but the company refused to have her in the joint mediation sessions.** We decided to make the most of the mediation, rather than argue this pathetic position, but Helen was helping us in the break out room. MWU particularly wanted to resolve the situation for Wairoa workers, who are still locked out, as well as compensation and back pay.

AFFCO Talley position

The company say they cannot restore Wairoa workers to dayshift because they would have to displace non union workers. They responded to our proposal to begin discussions on backpay and compensation saying :

"The company proposes no liability assessed remuneration is paid pending the company's appeal of the Employment Court decision. All staff had the option to start on terms which have shown to increase pay and did not disadvantage them when the plant began its new season."

Collective Bargaining

Earlier this week, AFFCO tabled a proposed new site based collective agreement, which is their non-union individual agreements dressed up as a collective. This is a fixed term agreement that would see the Court decision of continuous employment overturned. The union said we would negotiate, with our full team present, but not on the basis of AFFCO Talley's latest new claims and site agreements.

What next?

MWU and AFFCO Talley meet the Judge on Tuesday 8th December. We will present evidence about the company resisting implementing the Court decision and the treatment of union members. The union has filed a new application to have the Court fix the terms and conditions of the collective agreement because of the company's serious and sustained breaches of good faith.

MWU is pulling out all the stops to have the company comply with the Court decision, and we have the backing of the NZ and the international union movements.