



WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

MEDIA RELEASE

CENTRAL COAST WASTE AND RECYCLING DELAYS

Friday 10 February, 2017

REMONDIS has expressed disappointment that the Transport Workers' Union of Australia (TWU) NSW Branch has chosen to again provide a notice of intended industrial action likely to affect waste and recycling services on the Central Coast.

The TWU has this week given notice of industrial action that may occur on Monday and Wednesday next week.

This has happened as REMONDIS, its employees and the TWU continue to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement (EA).

Prior to this week the TWU has not been present at several negotiation meetings between REMONDIS and its drivers where further industrial action has been avoided.

REMONDIS was provided a commitment by the TWU that their representatives would be available for all future negotiations meetings, however cancelled a key meeting yesterday before initiating more industrial action.

The action will cause some disruptions to local kerbside garbage collection services.

Residents are asked to leave their bins out as they will be collected once drivers return to work.

REMONDIS has made arrangements for a number of urgent meetings with its employees, the TWU and will again seek the assistance of the Fair Work Commission to help resolve the dispute and stop any future industrial action.

The dispute revolves around the TWU asking for long term certainty for local garbage collectors, who are employed by REMONDIS and the terms of their EA.

REMONDIS is performing local garbage collection functions under a ten-year contract with Council. That contract, with fixed terms and conditions, expires on 31 January 2018.

Council has not issued a tender for local waste management beyond the existing contract or commenced discussions for any potential extensions of the current contract.

“As a business we continue to honour our existing contract with Council,” REMONDIS Central Coast Regional Manager Ritchie Venn said.

“The TWU wants to lock in employment terms and conditions for drivers beyond the contract period.

“REMONDIS is unaware of what the tender will provide for and cannot make any further commitments beyond what has already been provided to our employees.

“When we submit the tender we will have a better idea of what terms and conditions we can provide and until the tender is awarded these remain commercial in confidence.”

In January this year the Fair Work Commission backed REMONDIS’ position that the company has the option not to continue the terms and conditions of the expired EA, which provides inefficient work practices and places REMONDIS at a commercial disadvantage compared to the wider industry.

REMONDIS has provided offers to its employees during the current negotiations that would guarantee its workforce a job for the new contract, in lieu of employees having to apply to other waste services company if REMONDIS is unsuccessful in the upcoming tender.

The employees currently enjoy good terms and conditions and would continue to receive entitlements in excess of the legislative minimum.

REMONDIS continues to ask the TWU to withdraw its intended industrial action, which is counter-productive and disruptive for local residents.

Media enquiries: Matthew Watson 0417 691 884

ENDS