



press release

7 July 2016, Canberra

SUEZ DISAPPOINTED IN ONGOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION

SUEZ has received notice from the Transport Workers' Union that employees engaged on our contract for the ACT's residential waste collection service will again take industrial action on Friday 8 July.

ACT Manager for SUEZ, Jason Stewart, said the company is again disappointed that this action continues to inconvenience and add additional costs to the ACT Government and households.

"We call upon the Union to continue to negotiate in good faith without the need for further disruption to ACT residents," Mr Stewart said.

"We feel we have listened to all our employees' requests and our offer of a 3.4% increase in entitlements is fair. We have been honest from the outset about what we can pay but the TWU seem to believe that SUEZ or the ACT Government will fund something more.

"Our drivers are paid well above award and on average earn \$95,000 per year. The TWU's demand for a 4% wage increase is simply out of step with community and industry standards. With the national Wage Price Index at 2% and CPI at 1.3% the TWU's wage claim is double what is being agreed at other workplaces at the moment.

"At this point there has been no justification given by the TWU for this claim other than "this is what we got before" and disappointingly we have been met with a strong refusal by union officials to consider any offsets, service improvements or productivity measures that could be used to bargain for higher wages.

"It is difficult to get an agreement when you are faced with these sort of demands and a union that is prepared to keep taking industrial action until it gets what it wants.

"We are committed to providing an excellent service to the people of the ACT and to do this our priority is to negotiate an enterprise agreement in good faith that is sustainable and continues to see our employees paid amongst the best in the industry," he said.

Residents in affected suburbs are requested to leave their bins out on the kerb from Friday as missed collections will be picked up over the weekend.

Affected suburbs include: Ainslie, Duntroon, Narrabundah, Barton, Forrest, Oaks Estate, Beard, Franklin, O'Connor, Braddon, Griffith, Pialligo, Campbell, Hackett, Red Hill, City, Harrison, Reid, Deakin, Hughes, Turner, Dickson, Kingston, Watson and Yarralumla.

– Ends –

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