

PWUA MEMBERS' UPDATE!

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Postal Workers Union of Aotearoa
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NZ Post's proposal to unions for clearing courier parcel backlog in Auckland

In a video conference call with the officials of both unions yesterday, NZ Post told the unions that the company has a backlog of 250,000 parcels in Auckland - parcels in the network have climbed from 350,000 a week to over 700,000.

Business customers wanting to lodge large volumes with NZ Post have been told by the company to restrict their sending volumes because of the backlog.

In Auckland only, to help clear the backlog, NZ Post wants to reduce mail delivery frequency from three deliveries to two deliveries per week until Christmas 2021 and use Delivery Agents to deliver courier items on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The unions told NZ Post that there must first be a discussion with the Auckland worksite delegates. After a video conference with the delegates this morning the unions responded to NZ Post with feedback from the Auckland union delegates as below:

- No strong opposition was expressed by the union delegates to the company's proposal.
- Each delivery branch would need to be able to manage its own resources independently in response to their unique circumstances.
- Safety to be reinforced as the top priority for Delivery Agents, paying close attention to COVID transmission controls.
- Each branch to feed back daily to senior management about any current and anticipated carryover of mail and/or courier items. Volumes of courier items streamed to each branch to be adjusted accordingly so that mail carryover does not worsen.
- Concern that the Auckland Mail Centre may struggle to process and dispatch the mail effectively.
- Another video conference meeting of delegates and senior management to occur in two to three weeks' time to monitor progress.
- Delegates support the opportunity for Delivery Agents to volunteer for Sunday work to deliver courier items.

Additional points:

- There is a risk that a temporary reduction in delivery frequency may result in the loss of some mail customers to DX Mail.
- A backlog of courier items is more readily cleared by temporary workers (with a vehicle and a map) than a backlog of mail. Mail delivery requires sorting on a sorting case and delivery using a Paxster, bicycle or motorcycle which are skills requiring proper training.
- The unions believe that the approval of the Government's Shareholding Ministers to a temporary change to the Deed of Understanding would be appropriate.

You can join the PWUA now by going to the union's website, www.pwua.org.nz, click on the "Join Us" link, and submit the form.