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9,500 JOB LOSSES / TELSTRA EBA UPDATE

Telstra's declaration of 9,500 job losses has devastated their employees and will have drastic impact on their precarious future. It's a reduction of a quarter of the workforce. The bold announcement to the ASX in the first instance, which included the establishment of a new entity, InfraCo has undermined the principles of consulting with the unions and their workforce. The strategy authorised by the board of Telstra has relinquished the bona fide opportunity to influence the decision already made. Yet, when questioned about aspects of where the job cuts are, Telstra are very vague on detail, besides 900 of the 9,500 jobs being in management!

UPDATE ON EBA NEGOTIATIONS

Of course this news will impact the negotiations. Subsequent to the announcement, Telstra made quick assertions that redundancy provisions will not be affected. However, just when you thought the redundancy clause was protected, we discover that Telstra are pursuing other means to negate paying out of your entitlement of redundancy by proposing a new clause where there is a Transfer of Business or Transfer of Employment, you will not be entitled to retrenchment benefits if there is an offer of a suitable position and you reject that offer.

There has been no discussion on pay increases or Superannuation as yet, except the usual statement that the increases will be nominal.

Telstra have rejected most of the union claims so far.

The Bargaining Agents are presenting their claims, then hopefully meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas and documentation will take place, leading to genuine outcomes that represent the interests of all members.

Until the next update,

Yours in solidarity,

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