



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN COAL CIRCULAR

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Dear Member

PN Qld Coal: EA Update

Yesterday in Mackay I met with Pacific National management about the current Coal Agreement due to expire in 2017. Preliminary discussions were held about getting together the team that will negotiate the replacement EA.

Fortunately both the RTBU and Pacific National have a similar timetable in mind that will see the notice to commence bargaining issued in early January with the aim of getting negotiations underway as soon as possible after that.

Pacific National have flagged that they wish to use a similar format to the 2012 Agreement - that being a combination of depot representatives elected by the depot, dedicated union representatives, and obviously Pacific National Management will appoint their team to represent Pacific National.

I put forward a proposal that would see an increase in representation from Coppabella from 1 representative to 2 representatives based on the significant increase in size of Coppabella since the 2012 Agreement. Pacific National Management is considering this request and will respond accordingly.

For some months now there has been local discussion in depots about the upcoming Agreement and I appreciate members who have sent in ideas that will, in essence start devising the log of claims. I encourage that discussion to continue in the depot and that members liaise with local delegates to ensure they are aware of any ideas you have.

Given that we have a Federal court case coming up in January in respect to Barracks Allowance, I don't think it will come as any surprise that PN will be wanting to eliminate this clause in the next EA. This places even more emphasis on the decision of the Federal Court and whilst we have put every available resource into the best possible defence of the payment of Barracks Allowance ultimately the court will decide. Obviously we are hoping for the best result and this will strengthen our claim to maintain barracks allowance into future agreements. Either way I feel sure Barracks Allowance will be a hot topic for both employees and the company at these negotiations.

I will be seeking further clarification from the company on the election of workplace representatives, and provided that the process is carried out in a completely transparent way, then I am keen to see the outcome. Some of those members who were involved in the 2012 agreement may choose to nominate themselves again, and given their familiarity of the history of the agreement feel sure they will be well supported by their colleagues.

Being a representative of the workplace is a task that requires considerable patience, good listening skills and the ability to work as part of a team to represent the best interests of your workmates.

I encourage members to consider those people in the depot who you feel best represent you and engage with them in conversation about potential nomination in the very near future.

I look forward to reporting back to you in due course.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie

State President, RTBU Qld Branch