



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN COAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member

Actions & Reactions

On the day that the roll is closing for the upcoming potential protected industrial action ballot, I find myself very perplexed at the current view PN Coal Management are peddling in the workplace.

The RTBU wants to negotiate with PN Coal for a new agreement for Traincrew. We have not walked away from negotiations, in fact in an email to PN Management on 21 February, we stated:

"We remain available to continue bargaining in good faith in an effort to reach an agreement that is reasonable for our members. We don't see industrial action as an end in itself; moreover, it's a tool to place pressure on the company at last resort. It's become increasingly clear that the company has not, and does not appreciate the resolve our members have with regards the remaining issues. If this remains the case I anticipate that at the appropriate time our members will seek to put pressure on the company to demonstrate their views.

To be abundantly clear – the package as proposed by the company most recently is unacceptable. We have sought the views of our members and they are clear about their rejection of the offer.

I therefore urge the company to reconsider the offer put forward by the bargaining team at our last meeting and reconsider the points as discussed. I look forward to further discussions with you on this matter."

PN Coal says they won't meet under "threat of industrial action" What threat? The ballot merely seeks to determine if members want to utilise Industrial Action. A "threat of industrial action" only arises if a YES result is the outcome.

If they see members being asked if they wish this option as an actual "threat of industrial action" it appears an admission they are well aware of the frustration PN Coal's offer has engendered in the workplace.

I have today again written to the company outlining our belief that this is the time to be talking rather than waiting for the outcome of the ballot.

I have no doubt that if members thought the company was listening to them and providing reasonable responses to Driver's key issues, any ballot for industrial action would return a resounding NO vote. It's simple. If the company wants to avoid protected industrial action, then return to the negotiating table and provide more sympathetic consideration for the needs of our members.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie
QLD State President