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Dear Member

To Negotiate or not to Negotiate “that is the question”

Most members would be aware of the current position of PN Coal management, in that they will not return to the table whilst the current ballot is taking place. Your Union has written to them very regularly urging them to return to the table and negotiate as it is not until the ballot closes that there is any possibility of protected industrial action, and as previously mentioned, it would be foolish to take action whilst the company is engaged in meaningful and fruitful negotiations.

In a bit of a strange move PN Coal have now advised that they intend to seek conciliation in the Fair Work commission(FWC), in other words, seek the commission to assist with negotiations, the same negotiations, we presume, we have urged PN Coal to recommence.

Your Union has bargained in good faith from the outset and have asked that PN return to the table to continue that process.

The “Directions Hearing” at Fair Work Australia will be held tomorrow (13 March 2014) and dates for any conciliation meetings will be determined then.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DOES NOT IMPACT ON THE BALLOT PROCESS AND MEMBERS SHOULD ENSURE YOUR BALLOT PAPERS ARE RETURNED ASAP.

I look forward to advising members further as this issue progresses.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie
QLD State President