



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN COAL CIRCULAR

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Dear Member

PN Qld Coal: 2017 The Year of the New QLD Coal Agreement

Welcome to 2017, the year of the new PN Agreement.

I refer members to circular [195/2016](#) from November 2016, wherein I advised that preliminary discussions had been held with PN management, and that I had 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. I am expecting a response from PN in the coming days, and anticipate that the notice to commence bargaining will be issued next week.

For some time now there has been local discussion in depots about the upcoming Agreement and I appreciate members who have sent in ideas that will help us form the basis of the log of claims. I encourage that discussion continue in the depot and ask that members liaise with local delegates to ensure they are aware of any ideas you have.

FURTHER you can email any thoughts to pncoal@rtbu.com.au.

Given that we have a Federal court case coming up on February 9 and 10 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 to strengthen our claim to maintain barracks allowance into future agreements, but 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 ask members to consider those in the depot you feel best represent you and encourage them in potential nomination for these important negotiations.

I look forward to reporting back to you soon.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie

State President, RTBU Qld Branch