



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN Coal Newsletter

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24 March 2014

Dear Member

The Voice of PN Drivers ... Yes! Yes! Yes!

The ballot process seeking your views on potential protected industrial action closed 20 March 2014 and has resulted in an overwhelming majority endorsing the opportunity to use protected industrial action if so required.

Members should be congratulated for producing an 82 % return from eligible voters and 89.5% voting to undertake some type of action which strongly displayed the unity alive within the workforce and the disappointment at what has been put on the table so far by PN Coal.

The lowest vote on individual questions for industrial action was just short of 80% "Yes" with all other questions on forms of industrial action providing over 80% "Yes" votes.

Whilst the ballot was occurring, FairWork (The Federal Industrial Commission) intervened in a conciliatory role following an approach from the Company. Our negotiators, along with our Principal Industrial Officer, met with PN Coal management and their legal advisers yesterday (19/3) in day one of conciliation with a Fair Work Commissioner and the majority of the day was taken up with the parties outlining current positions and the justifications for same.

PN Coal immediately sought a commitment that no industrial action would take place whilst the commissioner was conciliating the case which was strongly rejected by your union. However, when the commissioner sought an assurance from The RTBU that we would not take any industrial action whilst she was involved in conciliation without at least advising her office in advance, you're Union agreed to this reasonable request.

This does not take away the right of the Union to provide notice of action if required, but if progress is being made through the Fair Work intervention in negotiations, then your Union will continue to endeavour to get a negotiated outcome that meets our members' needs.

The Company has agreed to meet with your Union next Wednesday (26/3) and then again on Thursday (27/3) with a Commissioner in attendance and I look forward to reporting to you the results of these negotiations.

In the meantime congratulations to all those members who have pulled together in Unity and said we want a fair deal for PN Coal Traincrew.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie

QLD State President