



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN COAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member

Pacific National Coal Certified Agreement Update: #2

After a series of scoping meetings, a meeting was held last week where a log of claims was presented by the workforce and by PN COAL. The log of claims was discussed and endorsed in a series of workplace meetings. It is an extensive log of claims, well thought out and looks at solving a lot of the uncertainties of your current agreement.

The Pacific National Queensland Coal's log of claims appears to be ambit in nature and sets the scene for arduous negotiations ahead. The RTBU has had plenty of experience of employers coming from what appears to be unreasonable and unrealistic demands in the first instance and I therefore advise members not to get too concerned about the implications of PN's log of claims at this point. The RTBU as the strong and united Union in your Workplace will be able to address these challenges in a number of ways.

The main elements in the PN Coal log of claims are as follows:

- **Minimal fundamental change to current Agreement**
- **Sign on at Locomotive with 2 hours travel either end permitted**
- **Annual leave expressed in hours, not days**
- **Restrict annual leave to be taken in 2 blocks per year**
- **Pay rise in line with CPI only, but will not pay CPI rate if CPI is more than 4.5%**

PN Coal's philosophy is simple; as a result of implementing an Agreement under "WorkChoices" with **no** involvement of the Union, they have maximum flexibility under the current Agreement to their benefit. Why change it? If you interpret that into workplace language, its maximum uncertainty for Traincrew and that is the exact reason the workplace log of claims is so extensive.

As I have said it is early days and a lot of discussion is poised to happen over the coming weeks. Your Union is committed to being at the table to endeavour to achieve the best outcome possible for members. We will ensure that members are kept up to date over the coming weeks with developments from the negotiations both by written and face-to-face communication. This is your agreement, your input is vital.

The next meeting with PN Coal is Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and I look forward to reporting the outcomes to you in a timely manner.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie

QLD State President/ Central District Organiser (Sarina)