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Dear Member

## UPDATE: The next step in YOUR collective agreement

Well we are a week out from the second meeting about the replacement PN Coal EA, with the first meeting being a training session for workplace reps.

Meeting number two is about:

- Purpose of the Agreement i.e. replacement EA for Train crew in Qld operations
- Purpose of bargaining team
- Confirm team membership
- Adopt ground rules for meetings
- Develop Guiding Principles – Agree and Sign off
- Identify meeting roles

So it really is a day of setting the scope to move forward.

I recently wrote to PN management seeking the release of some key RTBU EA team members to attend a one day training session in Sarina for next Thursday the day after our next meeting and a shutdown day in the Goonyella system, with the RTBU hosting the meeting.

PN have responded saying that they cannot release anyone from Gracemere or Bowen due to operational pressures, however, would release nominees from Sarina / Nebo on the proviso that the RTBU pay the wages of booked off drivers for the day or if the driver is on ROP that they are free to attend.

The Payment of wages is no surprise; however, not having driver's reps from other areas sort of defeats the purpose of the day and simply makes it a Goonyella system meeting.

This meeting would most certainly have streamlined the process as it was intended to fly up our senior industrial officer from Brisbane to assist in putting a log of claims together that would have then been distributed into the workplaces as a draft for future endorsement.

Following the response from PN, it has been decided to hold meetings depot-by-depot and go the long way about bringing together the combined thoughts of every depot. given the inability to get the EA committee and workplace reps together for an extended period this is the only viable alternative.

In the coming weeks the RTBU will be hosting meetings in all depots and we strongly encourage all Drivers to come along and have their say or at a minimum engage with your workplace rep and let your thoughts be known.

Remember **THIS IS YOUR** agreement and your input is vital to a successful outcome. The RTBU has committed considerable resources to fully represent our ever growing membership, but it is only with your efforts will a successful agreement be reached.

Please keep your eyes out for meeting notices in the coming weeks and please make the effort to attend if you are able.

**Unity is Strength**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Mackie', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Mackie

**QLD State President**

**Central Division Organiser, Sarina**