



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN Coal Newsletter

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Dear Member

Dispute: Barracks Allowance (Update 7) THANK YOU for YOUR URGENT ACTION

I refer members to the [previous 6 updates](#) about the ongoing dispute over Barracks Allowance and the use of Civeo camps for barracks jobs in Dysart.

So far we have had two conciliations with Commissioner Spencer, the most recent of which, was a vigorous two hour debate over whether the Barracks Allowance was for meals or not. Following on from that, the argument was – if PN supplies meals do they still need to pay the allowance?

There is no clear winner in this case, both parties think they are right and hence we have gone to the referee, but as we have always said going to the referee is never a sure thing for either party and in this case that rings very true.

As part of the process, Commissioner Spencer sought for the parties to attend conciliation today and provide an update of the situation. Your Union outlined the rejection of the offer and again sought the Commissioner to give a recommendation on the papers submitted by the Union.

PN, however, sought for a face to face conference be held before the Commissioner makes a recommendation. The Commissioner saw this is an opportunity to get the parties in the room and attempt to find a resolution.

As we have clearly said from the start of this dispute, there are no clear winners and as such it is important that we explore all opportunities with the commission to get the best outcome.

The commissioner has set down a preliminary date in early March for conciliation in Mackay. The parties have agreed to exchange documents in the coming weeks in preparation for the hearing.

I look forward to updating members on developments.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie
Queensland State President