



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PN COAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member

PN Coal Queensland EA Negotiations Update

I refer you to the RTBU's recent updates on the above matter in which I advised that PN was not prepared to continue with meaningful negotiations on the major outstanding issues, but instead seeking for the Union to participate in the drafting of an Agreement underpinned by major issues not acceptable to members.

After extensive consultation with members, it was clear to Your Union that PN's position was untenable. The Executive of the RTBU therefore authorised an application for a ballot of affected members on whether or not they wish to utilise the provisions for Protected Industrial Action provided for under the Federal Government's legislation.

You may have recently received the latest Pacific National "*Message from the GM*" (EA negotiations update) advising of PN's disappointment that we listened to our members and took steps as a result.

The RTBU is not particularly shocked that PN is disappointed with the position taken by Your Union as it was not designed to tickle their fancy!! It is about trying to get PN to take members' concerns seriously.

As indicated in our earlier newsletters, this Union and our members in PN would much prefer to reach a negotiated outcome that meets the needs of the PN Queensland Coal employees the RTBU represents. It is hoped that PN will appreciate the grave disappointment that exists within their workforce over the offers coming from them.

I am also disappointed that PN has yet again insulted Traincrew's common sense by suggesting that the RTBU's response to members' anger over the unacceptable offers from PN relates in some way to negotiations in another company, namely Aurizon. In my view, no further comment on this absurd remark is required.

However, because the RTBU is currently considering utilising one of the options available to assist in securing an appropriate Agreement which is acceptable to our members (namely conducting a ballot on potential industrial action), does not prevent the parties from continuing to negotiate to avoid the implementation of this particular option.

The RTBU continues to be keen to engage in meaningful negotiations over the outstanding issues and in a gesture of good faith is prepared to refrain from lodging the application for the right to ballot members until after the negotiation proposed for Wednesday and Thursday next week. It is time for Pacific National to seriously examine the needs of their employees and not continue to rely on the 'employer designed' current Agreement as the starting block for costing outcomes.

Members will be provided with a full report on the outcome of these negotiations next week.

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie
QLD State President