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Dear Member

## Update: Barracks Allowance

Dear Member

Your Union is aware of the communication put out recently by PN about Barracks allowance. Whilst there is no surprise in the communication there is no real substance either. All the company is saying is this is another way of delaying the process.

The first 3 dot points state:

- Pacific National maintains the position that the intent of the barracks allowance is for meals.
- Pacific National acknowledge the position put forward by the Commissioner that payment of the 'Barracks Allowance' would enable employees to bring their own food in circumstances where there has been dissatisfaction over the meals provided or the timing of the meals at the Civeo Camp.
- It is our (Pacific National's) position that we engaged in proper consultation with employees prior to the move to the Civeo Barracks and since the move. We are committed to continuing to consult through both the WIF and SHE committees.

PN put this all to the Federal Commissioner in conciliation and hearings who, in short, recommended that PN pay barracks allowance.

I congratulate the company in working with Civeo in providing better meals 24 hrs a day "something your union has been vocal about for some time" and I am sure those members who work out of the Coppabella depot who reside in the camp deserve a better food arrangement than is presently on offer. But those members on barracks jobs deserve barracks allowance as agreed by the parties in the Enterprise Agreement and reaffirmed by the commissioner.

Finally the last dot point:

- Payment of the barracks allowance, however, with the current provision of meals by the camp, this could result in the barracks allowance being taxable and assessable for the recipients.

Your Union is seeking advice around this statement as we, just like PN are not the ATO and we believe that only the ATO can make this decision, but to quote a member today "I would rather pay tax on something than get nothing and that's what we are getting at the moment."

The RTBU is continuing with our application to the Federal Court, but as I mentioned last time, this is a time consuming process. A process we intend to continue or until PN accepts the umpire's decision and pays the barracks allowance as per the Federal Commission's recommendation

Unity is Strength

Bruce Mackie

**Queensland State President**