



**Construction, Forestry,
Mining & Energy Union**

Mining and Energy Division
Queensland District Branch
ABN 73 089 711 903

Brisbane

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Our ref:
Your ref:

Monday, 30 March 2020

Dear Members,

We are in some very challenging times. The situation with COVID-19 is continually changing, with new requirements coming into place every day affecting the way we live and work.

With decisions being made by State and Federal Government every day to limit the spread of the virus, there is uncertainty hanging over the mining industry and we know this is unsettling and stressful for all Members and families.

Your Union is working with all industry stakeholders to advocate for the strongest possible health and safety measures to protect you at work, on your way to and from work and in camp.

While no-one can predict how the coming months will unfold, these are the principles that are guiding us and that we will fight for:

1. The continued safe operation of the mining industry

We want Queensland's mining industry to keep operating, to keep people in work and keep the economy going. But it must be done safely. Unfortunately, some Mining Companies have not taken their health and safety obligations seriously enough and this is undermining confidence of workers and communities. Mining companies must lift their game on health and safety if we are to keep the industry going.

2. FIFO & DIDO workers supported to relocate to local housing

Although FIFO & DIDO workers are currently exempt from Queensland travel bans, there is a real possibility that as COVID-19 measures escalate the government will reverse this exemption; and that FIFO & DIDO travel within the state will also be banned or severely restricted. We want mining companies to act urgently to offer FIFO & DIDO workers appropriate housing near their worksites in the Bowen Basin. Mining Companies must cover relocation and housing costs whether the worker is permanent or labour hire. We understand these arrangements would put a strain on families, but we believe it's an appropriate temporary measure to support workers and address concerns of host mining communities at this time.

Blackwater

45 Arthur Street
Blackwater Qld 4717

P 07 4982 5131
F 07 4982 6325

Dysart

Shop 24B Garden Plaza
Shannon Crescent
Dysart Qld 4745

P 07 4958 2318
F 07 4950 0065

Mackay

33 Milton Street
Mackay Qld 4740

P 07 4957 2644
F 07 4951 3241

Moranbah

Cnr Mills Avenue &
Bacon Street
Moranbah Qld 4744

P 07 4941 7004
F 07 4941 5269

Rockhampton

Level 5/156 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton Qld 4700

P 07 4922 7100
F 07 4922 7105

3. Mining companies must not use this crisis to drive down your conditions

We will not tolerate Mining Companies using this crisis to introduce changed work practices that undermine workers' rights, conditions or safety protections at work. We have already seen some mining companies pushing for punishing rosters – let's not forget the shocking safety record in our industry over the past 18 months, nor mining companies' massive outsourcing drive. We will fight to protect every existing right and condition you have.

4. Paid special leave

In case of any decision by the government to temporarily shut down the mining industry – or temporary shutdowns at individual sites – Coal Mine Workers must have access to paid special leave to assist them through the shutdown. Shutdowns are a worst-case scenario but we can't rule anything out at this time.

In addition to the above – we are continuing to fight hard to ensure that mining companies are implementing the most stringent safety measures possible. We believe that safe operation can be achieved and some mining companies are doing it well.

We thank all our Members who are working hard to implement safe work practices on site and contributing to our collective efforts to limit the spread of this virus.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Stephen Smyth – District President Mobile: 0417 897 845	Mitch Hughes – District Senior Vice President Mobile: 0418 901 054
Glenn Power – District Secretary Mobile: 0408 729 770	Steve Pierce – District Vice President – Mackay Mobile: 0409 631 513

Shane Brunker – District Vice President – Dalby Mobile: 0419 472 325	Jeff Scales – District Vice President – Rockhampton Mobile: 0438 214 666
Stephen Woods – Industry Safety and Health Rep – Mackay Mobile: 0417 004 332	Jason Hill – Industry Safety and Health Rep – Rockhampton Mobile: 0427 033 604
Stephen Watts – Industry Safety and Health Rep – Rockhampton Mobile: 0408 873 509	

Members are within their rights to question the Mining Companies on their work practices and where Members feel that not enough is being done, we ask you to raise those issues with the relevant people on site.

These developments continue to evolve every day, but Members can be assured that their Union is fighting to ensure that the best practices are implemented, that members are safe when they go to work, and that we are fighting to ensure your ongoing and safe employment.

If Members wish to discuss these matters further, please find contact details for the District Executive below.

In Unity,

QLD District Executive
CFMEU Mining and Energy Division - QLD

