



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News: Driver Safety & Casual/Trainee Progression

Assaults On Drivers Continue: Action Required

The RTBU is concerned about the continuous physical abuse of Bus Operators carrying out their service to the Brisbane public. A recent attack on one of our drivers has left even hardened delegates sick to the core. Whilst doing his job our driver was verbally abused and then viscously attacked for no apparent reason. Whilst we are pleased to learn that on this occasion the assailant has been arrested and is still in custody as bail was denied, the penalties are often too lenient to deter such attacks.

The RTBU is sick of its members being abused and used as punching bags. We have long called for tougher sentencing for those convicted of attacks on our drivers. Now is an opportunity for the Government to get tough and show workers it will protect them from violence. But it is also the responsibility of BCC as the employer to maximise the security of their employees.

The Bus Design and Security Committee has not met for some time and I have advised BCC that this Union demands it be reactivated as soon as possible. Over and above this I have called for an urgent meeting with BT to review our current safety/security measures. We will keep you posted on developments.

Casual/Trainee Progression

We are progressing through the dispute resolution process. BT has not addressed the main point of dispute which is the introduction of a new selection process without proper consultation or consideration for those drivers who were ready to be progressed through the system that was in place.

The RTBU does not make the rules but we do abide by them. If BT had paid attention to the EBA on the introduction of changes and the duty to consult we would not be in this position now.

Casual Drivers meet Lord Mayor Visit

A delegation of our casuals met with the Lord Mayor last week to air their collective and individual grievances on the traineeship issue. We are awaiting a response from him and will let all members know when we do.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown
Secretary, Tram and Bus Division