



Queensland Branch

# Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

## Bus E-News: New Award Paves The Way For Bargaining

Today the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission created the modernised Bus Transport Employees Award 2016. In turn this paves the way for the commencement of enterprise bargaining in Brisbane City Council.

Queensland workplace laws require the award to go through the modernisation process. Once modernised, it can then form the basis of enterprise bargaining.

As members will recall this has been a torturous process. It commenced under the Newman LNP Government and was a free for all that would have allowed BCC to strip conditions out of the Award and see members go backwards.

In the nick of time, the Palaszczuk Labor Government halted the process right after their election. They required that it continue but only on the basis that people don't go backwards – that it be a true modernisation process.

This of course took time and today is the culmination of a lot of work behind the scenes. We have been in formal discussions with BCC through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission throughout the process trying to get the Award finalised.

Our Award has only got the RTBU and BCC as parties – this was unlike other BCC unions who had to work to creating amalgamated Awards from their previous arrangements. This allowed us to focus on matters that applied to our members exclusively.

The Award now reflects current conditions and has been updated in places. Importantly though, we can now commence bargaining for a new agreement.

Already hundreds of members have completed the online survey and the results form the foundation of the union log of claims. We will soon come to meetings of members to explain next steps and the results of feedback.

There is still a short time to complete the survey if you haven't already. Find it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bteba> - it's quick, easy and you can even do it on your smart phone.

We will be in touch shortly with further updates as we move forward.

Unity is Strength

Owen Doogan  
**RTBU State Secretary,  
Queensland Branch**