



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# Bus Newsletter

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Dear Member,

## Bus E-News: EBA Bargaining Update 2

Today we met with Council to further progress bargaining.

It's not unusual for the first few meetings to deal with the processes, or in other words – how we will go about reaching an agreement. With over 6000 employees and a lot of different sections, it's a large exercise which your union is committed to getting right.

There is a lot of pressure to get a quick agreement. Council say that's the feedback they've received from staff. No-one wants to hold up a wage increase, but we also need to ensure it is a quality agreement given we will be governed by it for years to come.

We discussed the principles that would govern how we bargain today. That is, the rules we all agree to when it comes to the meetings. This is more important than it may sound because it also covers how we communicate with the workforce.

Unions made it clear today that the most fundamental issue for us when it comes to communication is transparency. Unions are committed to ensuring council employees, the people we are bargaining for, are up to date when it comes to what is being discussed.

BCC Unions are fundamentally committed to ensuring members are as involved and included in the bargaining process as possible. It starts with knowing what's going on, when it happens.

We said we would consider the bargaining principals and come back at the next meeting.

Aside from this, we gained some further clarification on the Council's log. Our concerns expressed in the previous newsletter remain – when there is talk of flexibility and making conditions consistent, it never seems to be to the highest standard, and we always seem to pay for the flexibility. Time will tell.

We received and agreed to the continuing commitment to no forced redundancies. We made the important point that the chief linked issue was job security. We believe members want to see a focus on secure, permanent jobs into the future and less insecure employment.

We sought some clarification on the issue raised in the Council Log of Claims which says they want to adjust some payment processes. Members will be relieved to know that this proposal is not aimed at RTBU members. It is a claim for other areas. No change is proposed for our area.

Council gave some details on the clauses they believe are no longer relevant including the bonus productivity payment, Brisbane Best Value commitments and a number of other measures in the various schedules. We will get further details and pass them on as we receive them.

## Rail, Tram & Bus Union (Qld Branch)

Next time we will present the Union logs of claim. There are a number of big issues which are common to everyone and we will need to ensure we get an acceptable solution to them before we can reach agreement. We will provide more information as we progress.

As usual, your workplace delegate is the best source of information in bargaining. As we continue they will receive more detailed information than can be sent in circulars such as this.

**Unity is Strength**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Brown', written in a cursive style.

Tom Brown  
**Secretary, Tram and Bus Division**