



Queensland Branch

Tram Newsletter

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Dear Members,

RTBU achieves first breakthrough for LRVO's

As a result of some parties missing from the meeting, yesterday's meeting, for the most part, addressed LRVO's rates of pay. Upcoming meetings will focus on other areas.

This week we can finally report some good news arising from the negotiations. KDR has agreed to one of the RTBU's claims to have the LRVO's hit the top pay-rate after 12 months (as compared to the current 36 months). We wait now with baited breath to see what KDR's pay-rate offer is. They have advised that they're not willing yet to put a dollar figure offer on the table until the negotiations have progressed further. This is not a particularly unusual position for Employers in EA negotiation.

CEO Campbell Mason attended the negotiations and presented Management's position on the LRVO's pay case put together by the LRVO operators. We will circulate the response document in its entirety so that drivers can read it for themselves. Gold Coast tram drivers are unique in that they drive the longest and heaviest trams in the country and they are the only ones who hold a Cert III qualification. This presents an argument that our LVROs are the most skilled and highest qualified tram drivers in Australia and this must be recognised in these negotiations.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, the RTBU will be organising a meeting for CSOs shortly and will continue to visit the depot to be available to meet with other members on an ongoing basis. The decision for separate CSO and LRVO meetings is simply because they work predominately away from the depot.

The RTBU wants an agreement as soon as possible and have formally requested meetings to be moved from fortnightly to weekly forthwith. We are currently waiting for confirmation from KDR that this can be arranged.

In solidarity

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram & Bus Division

RTBU Qld Branch