



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News: BCC Take a Wrong Turn in Bargaining

Negotiations commenced today but took an unexpected turn with BCC playing a frankly shabby tactic - putting an 'offer' document on the table.

BCC tabled a draft agreement, based on the current agreement, including all of the items BCC are claiming from their workers. All of the proposals they are looking for - including the unacceptable rostering changes, removals of important LAA's and everything else - we had thought were still in discussion.

Nowhere to be seen are even indications of employee or union led items. Not so much as a footnote outlining the reasonable claims that have been tabled and discussed.

This is a tactic designed to railroad unions who have been trying to discuss fair claims in a systematic fashion. The proposal put on the table today includes:

- A lowball offer of 1.7% in the first year (backdated), 1.8% in the second year, 1.9% in the third year and 2% in the fourth year - barely enough to cover inflation;
- A lengthy four year agreement where we have normally agreed a more balanced 3 years is appropriate;
- A raft of negative changes to rostering and the removal of key conditions in the occupation/operational specific schedules.

It's hard to believe an employer in this day and age would treat their employees with such contempt.

Union members won't fall for this cheap trick. Members have indicated they want to get involved in a genuine good faith negotiation. This will come as an insult to members who expect more from their employer.

Council's action now forces our hand. We have no choice but to respond to this tactic.

Following lengthy discussion, union representatives have determined that we will continue to meet as a union group to develop a comprehensive counter offer.

We won't be working off Council's lousy offer. We won't be resuming negotiations with Council until a counter offer reflecting member's wishes from Logs of Claim is developed.

We anticipate it will take a week or so to formulate that document to allow us to recommence negotiations.

As usual, your workplace delegate is the best source of information about what's happening in bargaining. We will provide further updates as we develop a comprehensive position and recommence negotiations.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division