



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Circular No: 40/2017

Date: 16 February 2017

Dear Member,

Bus E-News: EBA Schedule 10 Update

Your Union met with Council twice last week in an effort to progress our Schedule 10 claims - claims specific to bus drivers or bus assistants in our garages. Previously we had raised issues about rostering, access to leave, fatigue management, bus driver safety and the use of CCTV. On Thursday and Friday we were able to get our remaining issues out on the table.

These were matters in the award that we were unable to address in the award modernisation process. These issues are about fairness in the workplace and would lead to a more settled workforce.

They include:

- Casuals not receiving payment for the spread in a broken shift - members feel this leads to exploitation of casuals when work is being distributed;
- That a meal allowance for bus assistants is not provided for in the award;
- Extending the night link allowance;
- Meals out of depot and rest breaks.

Another big issue for members is when stand-alone time should be paid as opposed to overtime. Also the matter of booking and taking TOIL which has frustrated our members since SAP was introduced. Furthermore we asked for garage allowances to be bought up to date, for shift overtime penalties to be increased in line with other Council shift workers, and for early start penalties to be restored where appropriate.

We raised other issues in the Schedule that we feel are unfair, (like the clause that allows BT to remove overtime from Schedule 10 employees simply because they have been sick), and we have asked for the transfer list waiting period to be reduced.

We have not asked for pie in the sky, simply to have fairness and a degree of standardisation in the workplace. For example - why should a First Year Trainee be paid below a Level 1 Operator? How can they survive on such poverty wages?

Bennett Roche presented our claim for recalibration of our pay scale to bring us back into line with Council's band system. This would modernise our pay levels and offer appropriate recognition of our skills.

We now await Council's response.

A reminder to members that the first round of depot meetings with your EA representatives are coming up. Please make an effort to attend so we can take feedback and suggestions to ensure you have your say during the negotiations.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division