



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News: EBA Bargaining Update 11

Today we received a number of responses from Brisbane City Council on outstanding issues including a potential interim pay rise backdated until October last year.

A factor outside the control of both the Unions and BCC, that being the requirement under industrial relations legislation for the Award modernisation process to be completed prior to the commencement of negotiations, has slowed the process down. However all parties recognised that bargaining has been progressing for some time now and there are still some key issues to be resolved. In recognition of this BCC is prepared to agree to an **interim wage increase to all staff of 2% - backdated to October 2016**, (the end of the last Agreement). It will be processed as soon as possible by payroll.

Council also increased their previous offer in terms of wage increases to 2% per year over four years. Unions still consider that the proposed length of the agreement is still too long and the increase is also still too low.

However, BCC have now accepted that back pay is an important component in wages for members.

It is also important that members understand that Unions have secured a commitment that the increase is unconditional, but will form part of any final settlement.

We still have some significant issues left to deal with, issues that can't be smoothed over by a small wage increase, as welcome as it might be.

Achieving fairer rostering rules, removing the intrusive elements of the sick leave provisions, and making jobs more secure are still key issues for discussion. These issues must be resolved before any agreement can be reached. In tandem with that, we need to resolve the various issues in the separate occupational/group discussions.

So far progress has been slow, but the matters we need to deal with are critical for members.

Brisbane City Council told us that they remain firmly committed to their agenda, in particular the rostering and associated measures which would cause significant disadvantage for many BCC workers.

Make no mistake, the slightly increased wages offer and the interim wage increase is a step in the right direction, but there is a long way to go. No one will be conned into agreeing to a deal which drastically reduces income on the one hand, and provides crumbs on the other.

As usual, your delegate is your best source of information. We will provide further information as it comes to hand.

**** By now you will have seen an advertisement for a depot meeting. Please come along and get some more info on bargaining. Each meeting will include someone from the negotiating team. Your feedback is very important. ****

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division