



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News: EBA Bargaining Update 12

BCC has dug in on its claim for extreme rostering flexibility. If accepted the claim, (which was tabled on 24 January 2017), would allow Council to give 28 days' notice of a permanent change to the pattern of hours, start/finish times, or to include Saturdays or Sundays as ordinary hours. Council also wants the ability to direct employees to work nights either on a temporary or permanent basis.

The Unions have asked that Council withdraw these controversial and unacceptable provisions from their claim. Council has made it clear today that *"We are not removing the claim"*.

The Unions again asked for clarification of where Council wants to implement these 'flexibilities'. The Council response was *"everywhere"* – but they did add that these changes were not intended to affect bus drivers.

The BCC claim would seize control of your hours of work and remove certainty of work/life balance from you. It is a claim that must be resisted and which cannot be part of EBA 9.

Council also remains entrenched in its claim for a four year agreement. For BCC employees a four year agreement stretches too far into the unknown. It is beyond any capacity to sensibly anticipate how the economy will be performing and what will be appropriate in terms of wage increases.

Unions continued to press for sufficient training time for delegates to be included in the agreement.

Finally, the size of the wage increase on the table is inadequate.

We remain of the view that the wage increase should be discussed when all other aspects of the Agreement are bedded down. However, it is with noting that the Reserve Bank Of Australia Statement published in February, which forecasts what might be happening in the economy out to June 2019, notes a potential pick-up in inflation which would exceed what the Council has offered so far. June 2019 is in the middle of the Council's proposed length of agreement.

Council's offer also ignores the improvements to productivity delivered by the Council workforce.

In short - BCC can afford more and you deserve more.

As always, your depot delegate remains your best source of information as negotiations continue.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division