



Queensland Branch

# Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

## Bus E-News: Driver Safety Campaign Update

Further to my e-news of last Friday, you should be aware that at the City Council main meeting last week a motion was moved to ask the State Government to increase penalties for those who assault bus drivers. This motion was supported by both the main parties and is an easy exercise for them as it means they have to do nothing as this is a State Government responsibility.

Absolute disarray emerged when a simple action in the hands of the Council was proposed to increase security for their employees. Washing their hands of their own responsibility and passing a motion on something already under consideration in the Government Bus Safety Review is nothing more than a cheap attempt at saving face given the BCC are currently shirking their responsibility to do something positive.

As you will be aware, the RTBU has long campaigned for tougher penalties for those convicted of assault on bus drivers and this is one of our recommendations to the Bus Safety Review. The RTBU continue to lobby for this and seeks each level of Government to carry out their respective responsibilities to bus driver safety. A motion from Council providing for security guards to be available at least at some locations on the bus network would have been more practical and enforceable.

The State Government Review report is due this month, but the timetable for consideration of the Report and the subsequent implementation of any accepted recommendations could still take some time.

Meanwhile bus drivers are out there every day and night without adequate security measures. Council should be taking action with practical interim measures until a more permanent solution is in place. This is the quickest and most efficient way to address the current wave of violence against drivers.

### ***International Women's Day (IWD)***

IWD is on Wednesday 8 March. Functions have been arranged at depots by the Union Women's Committee - check the board or ask your Delegate. The day is celebrated worldwide as recognition of women's contribution to improving working conditions over the years.

### ***Penalty Rates Rally this Thursday***

There will be a nationwide rally this **Thursday 9th March**, with the Brisbane rally to be held at **Emma Miller Place (Roma St. Forum) at 10 am**. Most of our shift workers won't be at work then so it's a great opportunity to voice our anger at the decision to cut penalty rates. It's time for Aussie workers to stand up and fight back. See the attached flyer for details and please pass on to friends and colleagues - all are welcome.

### ***22 March - Court Appearance of Driver's Attackers***

Put this date in your diary. That's when the two men accused of assaulting one of our drivers will appear in the Magistrates court. Members are calling for a rally outside the court building to demand more security and tougher penalties. Of course we will be there. Best time for a rally is noon.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown  
**Secretary, Tram and Bus Division**