



Queensland Branch

# Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

## Bus E-News: EBA Update 14 - What is Schedule 10?

Schedule 10 is the part of the EBA that deals with issues specific to bus drivers and bus assistants in our garages. To discuss these matters the RTBU meets with BT separately from the main negotiations. We have now met with Brisbane Transport a number of times and have presented to them our issues related to this schedule.

We have just completed a round of well attended depot meetings where the negotiating team gave detailed feedback on the process to date. Members were very supportive of our approach so far and passed a resolution directing us to continue to press their claims in this manner. Members were very clear that they wanted their working conditions to be contained in the agreement.

BT has got back to us on some of these matters but not all - negotiations are in full swing now. Not surprisingly they have challenged our reclassification proposal saying bus drivers should be compared to bus drivers and we are already the best paid bus drivers in SE Queensland, so why should they pay us more? We do not accept this because private operators simply don't have comparable employment conditions. We are part of a massive organisation, (EBA 9 will cover more than 8000 employees), BCC has a huge budget and its valued workforce should all be paid in accordance with BCC pay scales.

Our bus assistants in the garages have a far more complex role these days but have been neglected for some time, so we have asked for a pay recalibration along similar lines. We just want our skills to be recognised and rewarded fairly.

On the issues of rostering and access to leave we have had some general agreement that these can be improved; however BT's position is that these are not matters for the EBA.

Trainees are also underpaid and undervalued. We are pressing for a better arrangement for them to get onto a higher pay rate as soon as practical. The transfer waiting list time period also needs to be lowered to reflect current depot set up. We have asked for these things as part of a general tidy up of the schedule document.

Casuals too feel they are being exploited when doing broken shifts and not being paid the spread, we have put this to the BT team as something that needs to be rectified. They have not responded to this one yet.

I have had a number of inquiries from members as to when the 2% unconditional offer will be added to the pay rate and when the back pay will come through. We were told 4-6 weeks at the time so it should be soon.

So as you can see no one is being left out of the negotiations - **we are all in this together.**

Next Meetings: Main EBA - Tuesday 14 March, Schedule 10 - Thursday 16 March.

You will find your Delegate is the best source of up to date information as negotiations continue.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

**Secretary, Tram and Bus Division**