



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Dear Member,

Bus E-News - May 2016 - Award Modernisation

There is a requirement that "Award Modernisation" be completed prior to negotiations on an Enterprise Agreement. This existed under the Newman government too, but now the right to strip away many key conditions is removed. However, Brisbane City Council is still trying to get some gains out of it.

This process has recently re-commenced and after the initial meeting with Brisbane City Council, the RTBU has pushed them back on their assault on a whole range of our members' conditions.

Council's wish list contained:

Council's List

Six months' probation
Council wanted to lift the parameters of part-time employment
Council tried to make access to Dirty work Allowance more difficult for our bus assistants/cleaner drivers to claim this small allowance (\$ 2.39 per bus)
Anti-Discrimination Clause: Council wanted to remove this
Award Posting clause removed
Half an hour stand alone for travelling time

RTBU Action

will now remain at three
12-32 hour span will now remain
Dirty Work Allowance to remain as is
it will stay in
No way
the current arrangements will NOT be changing

However, whilst we succeeded in maintaining the above in the first round, the bell is about to ring for round two with this fight moving to the Industrial Relations Commission as Brisbane City Council are still trying to make a grab for the following conditions:

- To work us for 5 hours 15 minutes without a break. We have a maximum of 5 hours sign on to sign off/ break. This is an important safety net for our drivers and passengers.
- Meal breaks can be given after 2 ½ hours (currently it's 3 ½ hours on an early and 3 hours on a late).
- Fortnightly Pays.

These claims would significantly alter our work patterns and would make fatigue a major concern, especially during the long second half of a shift. The next steps in the process will play out in the QIRC (The Commission) where the RTBU will oppose these claims that are an obvious advantage to the employer.

For instance, many of our drivers struggle to budget from week-to-week. To have to wait an extra week for any overtime they have worked is too much. The RTBU will fight for its members' right to be paid weekly and on time.

I will ensure you are kept advised of all developments.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown
**Secretary, Tram & Bus Division,
RTBU Qld Branch**

