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Media Release Draft

Bus Drivers tell Newman where to get off: Hands off our Buses

Bus Drivers tell Newman where to get off: Hands off our buses.

Bus drivers today launched a campaign to highlight LNP government plans to sell off our city buses which would lead to less buses, less often.

The campaign, supported by the RTBU, will include print and radio ads to inform voters of the LNP Government's bus privatisation plans.

The campaign follows a petition launched by drivers last year, which to date has gathered almost 20,000 signatures across the city.

RTBU State Secretary, Owen Doogan, said "his members' believed that the Queensland Government should be investing in world-class public transport, not privatising it.

Our members believe that most of the voting public are unaware that it is LNP Government policy to sell their buses and trains from underneath them.

Contestability is just LNP spin for privatisation, which the people of Brisbane know leads to higher fares and service cuts.

Our city bus drivers work 7 days a week to deliver a quality service that provides safe transport for over 80 million passengers across Brisbane every year.

We operate right across our city providing a community service that assists students getting to school and university and the elderly to shops and medical appointments."

"If the LNP Government is returned they will use their re-election as a mandate that the public support their fire sale of our public transport assets and cuts to services," Mr Doogan said.

ENDS

Background

In 2013 the LNP Government considered recommendations from the Queensland Government Commission of Audit on a number of matters including the outsourcing of bus and rail operations to the private sector.

While the LNP Cabinet rejected some of the recommendations they accepted in its entirety the recommendations to tender out all bus and city rail operations, including Brisbane City Council buses.

Link to Queensland Government Response to the Independent Commission of Audit:

<https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/publications-resources/coa-response/better-services.php>

Campaign Links

Online Petition: <http://www.standforqld.com.au/buses>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/handsoffourbuses>

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