



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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

Bus drivers today launched a pre-election campaign to highlight impacts on passengers if the LNP is allowed to proceed with plans to privatise city bus services.

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

RTBU State Secretary Owen Doogan said bus drivers believe the Queensland Government should be investing in world-class public transport, not privatising it.

"The LNP government has been careful to keep hidden its plans to start privatising Brisbane City Council buses in 2015," he said.

"Privatisation leads to higher fares and fewer services, as it has everywhere else in the world," he said.

"City buses operate right across our city providing a community service that assists commuters to get to work, students getting to school and university and the elderly to shops and medical appointments.

"City Buses carry 80 million passengers a year and it will be those Queenslanders who will end up paying more for the LNP's obsession with privatisation.

"Community action turned back the service cuts that the LNP wanted to make two years ago to Brisbane city buses," he said.

"If the LNP Government is returned it will use its re-election as a mandate to privatise BCC bus services," Mr Doogan said.

"When residents understand what's at stake if the LNP is allowed to continue its privatisation program, they can have their say at the ballot box," he said.

"We are asking them to tell Newman where to get off on his plans to privatise Brisbane city buses."

END

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 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 services, 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#B3_Public_Transport

Campaign Links:

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

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