



Queensland Branch

Bus Circular

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Circular No: 151/2016

Date: 30 September 2016

Dear Member,

Bus E-News: Bus Safety Review

Earlier this year at the Bus Safety Forum the RTBU expressed our concerns in relation to the safety of our members carrying out their day to day jobs.

I'm pleased to say that last night the Transport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe advised that the Palaszczuk Government has now committed to a wide ranging review into bus driver safety across Queensland, including Brisbane, as a result of the concerns raised by the stakeholders, which included the RTBU, at the Bus Safety Forum referred to above.

The RTBU is an integral party of the Bus Safety Forum which was established by the Palaszczuk Government and brings together representatives from Unions, Academia, the Police and other transport groups.

The Bus Safety Review will:

1. Consider previous studies and initiatives by government, industry, unions and the tertiary sector to gain insight and knowledge about issues impacting driver safety
2. Examine and assess current safety systems, policies, infrastructure, procedures and training to determine their efficacy in improving driver safety
3. Assess initiatives currently underway across government to address driver and passenger safety and how these can complement current safety frameworks and systems.
4. Conduct environmental scanning and research on driver safety systems and elements and examine their benefits and practical applicability
5. Collaborate with industry, unions, government agencies and key experts to identify potential initiatives that can be demonstrated to improve driver safety
6. Investigate funding mechanisms for potential driver safety initiatives for the Government's consideration.

The RTBU is pleased that the government has listened to the concerns of workers and the following comment from Minister Hinchliffe is welcome in that it recognised what the union has been saying to Governments for some time.

Minister Hinchliffe stated yesterday,

"Public Transport workers, particularly, bus drivers, often fall victim to verbal or physical abuse for simply doing their job. This behaviour is completely unacceptable, and through the establishment of The Bus Safety Forum and the implementation of this review, our government is committed to improving the current safety framework."

The Review into bus driver safety will be presented to government in March 2017.

You can be assured that the RTBU will be actively involved in pursuing our members' interests during this review and members will be kept up to date with all relevant developments.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown

Secretary, Tram and Bus Division