



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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BCC Bus Drivers Anti-Privatisation Campaign increases Momentum

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

Radio ads have now been playing throughout Brisbane all week and the Drivers on line campaign is going blockbusters with, the latest You Tube advert being greeted very enthusiastically and enormous support being expressed by the public to dozens of Bus Drivers demonstrating against Campbell Newman Bus privatisation every day.

Owen Doogan said that "bus drivers are finding the positive response to their campaign from the general public heartening. "Feedback from bus drivers is that many passengers are shocked that Campbell Newman is planning to privatise the buses and voicing opposition to this in a very frank and forceful manner."

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

Owen Doogan said "the honesty and integrity of Campbell Newman has come into question recently by a number of commentators. I will leave it to voters to make their own judgement of the way he and his colleagues have hidden and disguised the privatisation plan due to be implemented in September, this year.

Owen Doogan was advised of the privatisation timetable at two meetings at the Transport Minister's office last year and in December Lord Mayor Graham Quirk confirmed this.

Owen Doogan said "the Newman Government are well aware the public don't want their buses privatised as everyone knows privatisation always costs customers more.

Mr Doogan added "but there is also a real fear alive that the LNP will use the private operators to enforce the massive services cuts they tried to inflict on the BCC services less than two years ago."

Owen Doogan commented that "the angry public response meant that the LNP Councillors forced their State Government mates to pull back at this stage; but private operators don't have to worry about public anger as they don't face elections".

In conclusion Mr Doogan said "The more the public hear about these latest privatisation plans the more they put the Newman Government last campaign message resonates throughout the city.

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:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvqbOCq9XmY&feature=youtu.be>

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

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