



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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## LNP's Thatcher Style Public Transport Privatisation

The Newman Government today announced their intention to privatise all public transport in Queensland replicating the actions of the Thatcher Government in Britain and the Kennett Government in Victoria. The absolute and total privatisation of Queensland Rail means the public will lose access to Government run transport system in Queensland as their fares and taxes assist in ensuring the multi-national companies' profits continue to rise.

Owen Doogan, the State Secretary of the Rail, Tram & Bus Union, commented that "the Queensland electorate voted overwhelmingly against the privatisation of rail at the State election which swept the Newman Government to power. By simple play on words, the Newman Government today decided to ignore the sentiments of the people of Queensland and announced the privatisation of the part of Queensland Rail where even the Bligh Government was not prepared to tread.

Owen Doogan said "I am stunned that the LNP is prepared to display such blatant contempt for the Queensland electorate through privatising the public transport throughout Queensland. The Queensland public made it clear about the fact that they were opposed to the privatisation of the freight arm of QR at the last election and certainly never contemplated and all-out attack on the part of their railway they thought would forever remain in safe Government hands.

"Be it Bus or Train, this Government for ideological reasons want them in private hands".

Owen Doogan also said "not only is this Government determined to privatise the rail aspect of public transport it appears they are also contemplating the privatisation of the Brisbane City Council buses, services of which they attempted to decimate only weeks ago.

"God help Brisbane bus passengers once the Government hands the buses over to the private operators.

The RTBU will campaign along with the people of Queensland against the privatisation of Queensland Rail and our bus services as this is an essential service for the public and not yet another profit making opportunity for multi-national companies.

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