



Queensland Branch

# Bus Circular

AUTHORISED BY OWEN DOOGAN BRANCH SECRETARY

Level 1, 457 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Email: [info@rtbu.com.au](mailto:info@rtbu.com.au); Website: [rtbu.com.au](http://rtbu.com.au)

Phone: (07) 3839 4988

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Dear Member,

## Bus E-News: Bus Safety Rally Update & Petition

On Monday The RTBU hosted a rally in Brisbane Square along with the TWU to highlight the rising number of assaults on bus drivers, as part of our "Enough is Enough" campaign for driver safety. Our main focus was to try to get Brisbane City Council as the main employer of bus drivers in Queensland to accept its responsibility to provide a safe working environment for drivers as we are now dealing with abuse on a daily basis which at any time can erupt into violence. Drivers do not feel safe at work anymore.

Many bus drivers attended along with other unions and concerned family and community members. Thanks to everyone who took the time out to come in and join us - you made the rally a success.

Let me say "well done" to BCC for putting on extra security guards to protect its employees in the Brisbane Administration Centre from the hundred or so gathered outside. Maybe this is an indication they will step up their game to improve the protection of their frontline staff, namely bus drivers

With the silly season coming up drivers are more concerned than ever for their own and passenger safety. The rally was timed to coincide with the Bus Design and Security Committee meeting, an important body for implementing safety and security measures in BT. This was the first such meeting in 18 months and the RTBU delegation attended expecting drivers' concerns to be addressed but left an hour later frustrated by the lack of emphasis on driver safety now. We did manage to table a submission with some ideas on what can be done now, like increased visibility of authorised officers and security guards - a simple sign in the bus warning those who would sink to driver abuse that they will be caught and prosecuted.

The Union is aware that there is a review into bus driver safety underway, we pushed for it and have made a comprehensive submission to this important investigation. However, the review report is not due till March 2017 and any recommendations will take time to implement. Meantime, we feel Brisbane City Council can be doing more *now* to protect its bus drivers from being assaulted.

Help us get Council's attention - sign our petition at <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/enough-is-enough-brisbane-s-bus-drivers-deserve-protection> and let them know **Enough is Enough**.

Unity is Strength

Tom Brown  
**Secretary, Tram and Bus Division**