



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 - EBA Bargaining Update 10

We continued bargaining this week on Tuesday the 14th of February.

Following the BCC inspired shemozzle, where they dropped their low ball offer, (now revised in the minutes to be a 'draft' offer), Unions met last week to provide a formal response document.

The response incorporated all of the log items for the part of the agreement that affects everyone – but not the occupation/group specific schedules.

Yesterday we met to get Council's feedback on our document. In a slightly more sensible move by Council they put together a spreadsheet comparing their position to ours. Only slightly more sensible because while they changed tactic, they didn't change their over the top claims.

We went through all of the issues including:

- Delegate Training;
- Length of the Agreement;
- Contingent Labour, (how we ensure jobs are more permanent and full time);
- Drug and Alcohol Policy;
- Workload Management;
- LAA's, Rostering and associated matters;
- Personal Leave and recurrent absence;
- Wages;
- Heat Fatigue Policy.

For most matters we were told that Council needed to get some further direction from the Executive Leadership Team and then Civic Cabinet.

There were some matters unions needed to come back on as well following further discussion. They include the Drug and Alcohol Policy proposal.

Of note is the wages item. Council have put their low ball offer on the table and have demanded a figure in return from unions. We made it clear that despite their offer being clearly too low, we can't fix wages until some of the bigger issues are nipped out.

There are far too many issues which could have hip pocket consequences that need to be resolved before we put a price on it. It's a very normal way to bargain, and it's just common sense. In consultation with members, we will land on a fair figure for a central increase once some more issues emerge.

Your workplace delegate is the best source of bargaining information. Earlier in the process we said that we would provide regular written updates on bargaining, and ensure your delegate had the finer details that wouldn't fit in a circular like this.

We also said that we would run depot meetings where your negotiators would be available to take feedback, and answer questions. We have scheduled the first round of these depot meetings. The times won't suit everyone of course, but we ask members to make an effort to attend to have your say.

Look out for notices advertising meetings in the coming fortnight.

**Unity is Strength**

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