Dear Member,

**E-Newsletter July 2014**

**Award Modernisation Update**

The Divisional Committee have been working on a response to Brisbane Transport’s proposed new Bus Operators/Bus Assistants Award which reduced your rights, working conditions and take home pay. A new Award is in its final stages of development and will be taken to the Divisional Committee in coming weeks for Committee’s consideration. Draft copies are being shown now at the Depots Union meetings.

**Privatisation**

The RTBU are fighting back against the current attack by the Newman Government to Privatise Council Bus Services. The focus to date has been “Thank you driver campaign” handouts and the Stafford by-election where the Labour Party candidate and the Greens Candidate undertook to keep the Council Bus Service under Council control. The LNP gave no commitments at all on this important issue. We have been at traffic intersections with Anti-privatisation placards and banners made specifically for the Campaign. The Q.C.U organised a “Family day” which was attended by hundreds of supporters across the Unions and from other areas. Petitions have been prepared for Bus Operators to ask Passengers to sign and if those can be handed back to your Delegates, that would be appreciated.

The RTBU will be out there every weekend leading up to the Stafford by-election protesting about Newman’s plan to privatised your job. See your Delegate for dates and times where you can help. The election is being held on the 19th July.

**1.0 Meter Rule**

The Divisional Committee has now approved a response to go back to the Government regarding the 1.0 m space between vehicles and push bikes. A copy of this has been printed and is available at your Depot. It is based on the following; no bikes in Adelaide Street at all, one way streets to be Buses to the left as always and Bikes to the opposite side of the road, in marked lanes. This will keep them as far away from Buses as possible and help by stopping them weaving in and around the Buses. Any Bikes, including 3 week bikes, coming across the Victoria Street bridge will have to go down Elizabeth Street and not Adelaide Street. Further details are on the Map.

**City Sights - Commission orders Brisbane Transport to pay**

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has ordered that “City Sights” Bus Operators be back paid after a QIRC hearing recognised that Brisbane Transport failed to consult clearly with its workers. The RTBU referred the matter to the QIRC and advocated strongly that Brisbane Transport failed in its obligation to consult.
Dispute Notification Lodged

The RTBU is due to meet in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission this week over another Dispute where again Brisbane Transport has made another claim against RTBU members. This time it is the Bus Refuelers where they will lose up to $100 per week if Brisbane Transport has their way. The RTBU has and will continue to oppose any claim made against members between EBA Agreements. The EBA was negotiated in good faith with Brisbane Transport, yet despite signing off on a 3 year EBA BT are perusing this claim, looks like any good faith has gone out the window.

CCTV Policy and Process

Last month’s RTBU E-News talked about the Poor Performance and Misconduct process which opened a few eyes and made Bus Operators angry after they found out that Brisbane Transport’s “got a minute” process is in breach of the agreed policy. This led on to “What’s the deal” with CCTV.

The rules on CCTV are these;

1. The Camera above the Bus Operator must be facing towards the door. It will cut across the top of the Bus Operators head, and that is all. Any Camera that faces down to show the Bus Operator, the dash etc is in breach of the Agreement.

2. What footage can be shown as part of the Performance Management process? Only the piece that relates to a Customer Feedback and nothing else. Any footage that goes past the incident related section in the hope of finding something later to build up the charge against the Operator cannot be used.

3. Can anyone see the CCTV Footage? No, there are very tight rules about whom and when anyone sees any footage and even their Legal Representative is required not to sign a Confidentiality Agreement.

4. Can anyone from the Management view the footage? No, there are strict guidelines of who can see the footage. Only those who are directly involved with the incident can view the footage and they are required to discuss the contents of that footage with other people unless they too are directly involved in the issue.

5. Your Delegate has the document which provides further clarity to the CCTV understanding.

2014 Bus Operators Handbook

All but one point remains to be agreed upon in the new Bus Operators Handbook. Brisbane Transport intends to include a provision in the Handbook which is and always will be opposed by the RTBU. Brisbane Transport intends to ban the use of am/FM radio or technology that plays music etc that helps you enjoy your workplace.

Trams Go Live

Free Ride Sunday will be on 20 July when the Trams go live. It will be a great experience and worth the drive. Take the kids and have a great day.
Thank you from Jim

I wanted to thank all members including the hard working Delegates and their Assistants for the work done regarding the change over from Payroll Deductions. Without your willingness to support and back your Union, This Union would have some major decisions to make. There are some who have not converted over and we are contacting them and some who just want a free ride and will happily accept the benefits that the Union has fought for without contributing to the cause. There is always strength in numbers and the Union is no different. Encourage others to be members and encourage those who have not converted over from PRD to do so.

Unity is Strength

Jim Buttenshaw
Acting Tram & Bus Division Secretary