5 September 2014

Dear Member,

**URGENT: Update on Contestability & Privatisation Campaign**

The petition campaign both traditional and online, are starting to have an effect, with one hundred signatures per day reaching the desks of The Premier, The Lord Mayor, The Transport Minister and Transport Chair. Protests have also been staged at the ‘Not for Sale’ Forum (Bardon), The Lord Mayors’ Civic Cabinet Forum (Acacia Ridge), and The Labor Party Conference at the Mercure Hotel. A special Thanks to Tom Brown and Steve Szpaczek for their attendance, and Tom Brown, in particular, for his dedication and hard work in organising and supporting the ‘Hands Off Our Buses’ Campaign.

As many of you may already be aware The Premier has discovered an extra $30 million in the coffers to prop up his ailing Government, in an attempt to win some ground in the face of overwhelming opposition to the privatisation of the public transport network. He has publically announced this money will be spent in either, a reduction in fares, or an increase in services. A reduction in fares has limited appeal with the ongoing issues with the go-card, and any reduction can easily be absorbed by rising running costs. I would strongly urge ALL members to contact TRANSLINK through their website [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au) and vote to push the case for more services, which in my view, by expanding the network, increasing the frequency of services and more demand for drivers, will be a more effective strategy to maintain Brisbane Transport and job security in the long term. If this LNP Government continues down the path of privatisation it will place them in an impossible position to cut ANY services that the Government deems unprofitable having just introduced more services across the network.

Don’t forget to sign the petition at [change.org](http://change.org) we are very close to 500 petitioners!

Unity is Strength

Jim Buttenshaw

**Acting Secretary, Tram & Bus Division**