

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Bus Drivers Vote Overwhelmingly For A Better Deal

Bus drivers have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a 3.25 per cent annual pay rise from State Transit Authority (STA) after a ballot of drivers across all fourteen depots.

The offer was put to drivers yesterday, and over 75% per cent of members voted to accept it – a barnstorming result!

The three-year deal, which comes into force from 15 April 2012, is a fair and reasonable outcome for drivers after the O'Farrell government capped wages at 2.5% earlier this year.



The RTBU is now the only union that has been able to negotiate a deal above this cap without trading off any award conditions.

The efforts of the Bus Division in these negotiations was acknowledged and applauded by Unions NSW at a recent meeting of all union leaders.

Drivers were determined to be treated with respect and paid appropriately, and this offer has seen their determination pay off.

STA buses are a critical part of Sydney and Newcastle's transport network.

Drivers are proud of the role they play in moving people around the city and they deserve to be rewarded for the important work they do.

Strong Voter Turn Out A Sign Of Union Strength

The Bus Division would like to thank everyone that came out to vote in the recent ballot for drivers on the new EA.

It was great to see a strong turn out and great to see strong support within the membership for the offer negotiated with STA.

Whether voting for or against, 2500 drivers turned out to vote – an excellent indication of member's engagement.

The union is only as strong as its members and the more people participate in union matters and decision making the better.

The task for the Division now is to keep an eye on STA to make sure the necessary measures are put in place to deliver the pay increases contained within the Award.

Sign Up to *Bus Express* and Win!

Readers of *Bus Express* are still in the running to win a dream holiday. Go into the draw for a free week's holiday at the RTBU's beachside retreat at Sussex Inlet.

You have to be in it to win it – so sign up now!

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Super Contributions Set To Rise

If passed into law, the proposed increase in superannuation contributions will give a huge boost to Australian's retirement savings.

Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way were present at Parliament House when Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten introduced the Superannuation Amendment Bill into parliament, proposing to raise super contributions from the current 9 per cent to 12 per cent.

With the rises starting at 0.25 per cent from 2013 and increasing incrementally up to the full 12 per cent by 2019-20, employers and the economy will have plenty of time to adjust.

Introducing the legislation Bill Shorten noted that today there are 50 people in work for every ten people in retirement, but by 2050 there will only be 27 workers for every ten retirees.

"The Superannuation Guarantee increase will boost the superannuation savings of Australian workers by around \$500 billion by 2035. A proportion of these savings will be channelled back into the economy to fund jobs and nation-building infrastructure," Shorten said.

He also noted that Australia's superannuation savings are today worth \$1.3 trillion to the nation – the fourth biggest pool of funds in the world. This enviable position is a result of forward thinking by the Hawke/Keating Labor governments, which introduced compulsory super in 1992 at a rate of 3 per cent rising to 9 per cent in 2002.

Apart from the rate rise, key changes will be the lifting of the age limit for super contributions from 70 to 75, recognising that Australians are living and working longer. And, from July next year, low-income workers earning up to \$37,000 will receive a 15 per cent tax rebate on their superannuation contributions.

Negotiations at Light Rail to continue

Negotiations are set to continue with Veolia after Light Rail employees voted to reject a 3% pay increase and a roll over of the current EA.

The Bus and Tram Division has already set new dates for meetings with management where they will put forward the ongoing concerns of members.

We will keep you up to date as these negotiations continue.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way

Know your Rights



With Brett Peters....

Section 31. Overtime

31.2 An employee may refuse to work overtime in circumstances where the working of such overtime would result in the employee working hours which are unreasonable having regards to:

- 1) any risk to employee health and safety
- 2) the employee's personal circumstances including family responsibilities
- 3) the needs of the workplace or enterprise
- 4) any other relevant matter

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