



MEDIA

release

Community Engagement Unit

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TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION TO DISRUPT BUS SERVICES ON FRIDAY

ACTION General Manager James Roncon today expressed his disappointment in the planned industrial action on Friday by the Transport Workers Union (TWU).

The TWU has announced a 24-hour stop-work meeting from 12.01am on Friday 25 June 2010.

"This industrial action by the TWU will leave commuters stranded on Friday, particularly school children and those needing to get to work. The timing of the meeting has been deliberately organised to cause huge disruption to school children and the bus travelling public," Mr Roncon said.

"ACTION is committed to a collaborative approach to negotiating the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and we, along with the TWU, had committed to working through Fair Work Australia. This announcement by the TWU to now take industrial action is very disappointing but consistent with their approach to not bargaining in good faith."

Mr Roncon said a letter is being sent to all staff to encourage them not to participate in the industrial action.

"We do not feel that this action is reflective of the desires of most of our workforce given that only 40% of drivers voted to support it. We are going to work all week to seek continuation of as many services as possible, particularly school bus runs and services between town centres.

"We will keep the public updated throughout the week on the ACTION website but at this stage commuters and parents should start thinking about making alternative transport plans for Friday."

Mr Roncon said it was important to understand that none of the proposed changes in the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement are motivated by an intention to reduce pay, hours or jobs.

"In relation to the TWU's concern over ACTION's proposal to increase part-time drivers, ACTION has consistently stated there will not be any reduction in current full-time staff. We do, however, need greater flexibility in running and growing the service particularly since it is among the least efficient bus services in Australia. The TWU seem hell-bent on stopping the service from improving.

"We need to work together to build a business which delivers the best and safest workplace, as well as delivers a range of public transport improvements for the Canberra public."

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