

Rule alterations: 2006 RTBU Elections.

Members are advised that the Branch Council recently ratified extensive Rule alterations which come into effect as of the opening of the 2006 RTBU National and Branch elections. These came about as a result of trends over the past three elections which saw many elected positions remain unfilled, and members lacking any representation at all.

Many of those positions related to a bygone era, when Rail, Tram and Bus operations were government owned and operated. Our Rules were not relevant to the current situation, where all Rail freight operations are privately owned and operated, the only exception being TransAdelaide (Rail and Tram) which is still government owned and operated.

As a result, the former Divisional structure has been abolished, Districts have been restructured and Regional Sub-branches created. The new Districts are based on common employer groupings and geographical location. Special provisions apply to those members who reside in the N.T.

Branch Council has been expanded to enable increased opportunities for members in the rural and remote areas to participate in the affairs of the Union. Current and potential candidates for elected offices are strongly advised to contact the office via telephone (8 243 2566 or via our free call number for country members 1800 801 063) via facsimile (8 243 2566) or via email to theteam@artbiusant.org.au to ascertain information regarding the new structures.

The newly created Districts and the employer groupings within each District are as follows:

- **Pacific National District:** comprising all employees of Pacific National, Freight Australia, Great Southern Railway, and Bluebird Rail **except those employees who reside in the Northern Territory.**
- **Genesee Wyoming District:** comprising all employees of Genesee Wyoming, Momentum, South Spur, Patrick Port Link and QR National **except those employees who reside in the Northern Territory.**
- **Transfield District:** comprising all employees of Transfield, ARTC, ARTC Services Company, BJB Joint Venture and Downer EDI **except those employees who reside in the Northern Territory.**
- **TA District:** comprising all employees of TransAdelaide.
- **Northern Territory District:** comprising all employees who reside in the Northern Territory.

Branch Council Delegates are elected on a proportional basis allocated as follows:

- Pacific National District: Two (2) delegates, one (1) from Adelaide Metro region, one (1) representing all other locations within SA.

- Genesee Wyoming District: Two (2) delegates, one (1) from Adelaide Metro region, one (1) representing all other locations within SA.
- Transfield District: One (1) delegate.
- TA District: Three (3) delegates, one (1) of whom shall be elected by and from employees at Glengowrie Tram Depot.
- NT District: One (1) delegate.

Other major changes to our Rules are:

- The creation of a new position (Vice President-Women) to provide improved representation for women members.
- The creation of two Branch Regional Sub branches, one covering the Adelaide Metro region (including Balaklava, Tailem Bend, Balhannah and Bowmans), the other covering all other locations within SA and NT. Each of these Sub branches is empowered to elect a Sub branch Secretary, President and Vice President, to conduct meetings of members and to address all local issues.
- The empowerment of members to create Shop committees and to appoint Delegates from workgroups or classifications within the various operating companies to deal with local issues and to develop policies consideration of the Branch Council.
- All elected positions are for a full four (4) year term. This provision previously applied only to offices such as Branch Secretary, and Organiser.
- The reintroduction of a position for a Branch Organiser, full time or part time (as determined from time to time by the Branch Council).

All of these changes are designed to encourage increased participation and the empowerment of the membership in the business of your Union.