

## **Repealing the FPA Act does not impact Bus Driver wages**

The Bus and Coach Association is concerned with the inaccurate reporting surrounding the Government's decision to repeal the Fair Pay Agreements Act 2022. There has been significant public commentary about what this means for bus drivers in New Zealand.

Some incorrect statements made by Unions have been repeated as fact by some media outlets, misleading the public and leaving some drivers fearing that their recent pay increases are going to be reversed. This is not going to happen.

The Bus and Coach Association is the approved Employer Bargaining Side for employers of bus drivers under the FPA process. Bus drivers were the subject of the first application to bargain for a Fair Pay Agreement.

No Fair Pay Agreements have been approved in New Zealand, so repealing the Act does not impact any person's terms or conditions.

Most urban bus drivers in New Zealand are paid at least \$30 an hour. Referring to the statement made by the Council of Trade Unions regarding Wellington drivers, the lowest hourly base rate in Wellington for an urban bus driver is currently \$26.25, and those drivers receive various allowances and penal rates making their effective hourly rate at least \$30 an hour. Drivers under that arrangement also have the option of a \$30 an hour flat rate and can elect to move between either hourly rate payment format as outlined in their Collective Employment Agreement.

The movement in urban bus driver wages over the last two years has been significant, with most drivers receiving increases over 25-30%. They work hard in critical roles with a high degree of responsibility and deserve that recognition.

Our industry is committed to continuing to improve terms and conditions for bus drivers, in conjunction with our central and local government funders and unions.

We all agree workers should be paid fairly, but we don't think the Fair Pay Agreements Act 2022 was going to deliver that for our industry.

**About the Bus and Coach Association:** The BCA has been the authoritative voice of New Zealand's bus and coach industry since 1931. Our mission is to foster the efficient and sustainable growth of road passenger transport to the mutual benefit of the New Zealand community and BCA members.

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